

# Syria seeks Soviet troops pledge as warning to Reagan

From Robert Fisk, Damascus

Syria has asked the Soviet Union to revise its strategic cooperation agreement so that Soviet ground troops could be sent to Damascus if the Syrian Army has to withstand a big military assault in Lebanon. Until now it has been generally assumed that the Russians would intervene militarily only if Syrian sovereign territory were attacked, but officials in Damascus are making no secret that they would like to revise the terms of the pact, in the words of a government spokesman, "to meet the imbalance resulting from the Israeli-American strategic agreement". Syria's request to Moscow is intended as a warning to President Reagan, whose new cooperation agreement with Israel is viewed with the gravest concern in Damascus. Syria's fear that it may face a joint US-Israeli attack is genuinely felt, despite President Reagan's insistence that the Americans are not looking for a battle with Syria. There are up to 6,000 Soviet military personnel in Syria. Most of them are advisers and the remainder constitute the crews for the Sam 5 ground-to-air missile batteries installed at three sites early this year. Despite claims to the contrary in Washington, there are no Soviet combat troops in Syria. Indeed, the Russians have hitherto preferred not to contemplate any military actions which might suck them into the Lebanese quagmire. A few Soviet radar personnel have crossed occasionally into Lebanon to calibrate equipment on the Syrians' Sam 5 rockets, but that appears to have been the extent of their involvement. In an interview with *The Times* yesterday, however, Mr Muhammad Haidar, head of the foreign relations committee of the ruling Baath Party's National Command, said that his Government had "no doubt at all that, if Syria is attacked, the Soviet Union will immediately take our side both politically and militarily". When I asked Mr Haidar if Damascus now wanted Soviet troops to come to Syria if the Syrian Army was attacked in Lebanon, he replied: "It makes no difference if Syrian forces are attacked in Lebanon or in Syria - we are allied to the Soviet Union. Between two allied

forces, the differentiation you mention makes no difference." Moscow may prefer to leave things as they stand with Damascus, and it is important to realize that the Syrians do not intend to request the presence of Soviet troops on their soil before any military attack should take place. They are following their usual practice of steadily increasing the stakes in the Middle East, in the hope of making their potential enemies think twice about military adventures. Syria also likes to publicize its independence from the Soviet Union and would probably seek direct Russian assistance only as a last resort. Nevertheless, if they can include such support in the event of fighting in Lebanon, then the Syrians will have substantially increased the risk of a superpower confrontation, as they believe the United States has done by forging a strategic agreement with Israel. The daily fighting in which US Marines are involved in Beirut airport came under sustained rocket, mortar and small-arms rifle again yesterday morning and fought off their



The Queen at yesterday's opening of Britain's biggest automated letter sorting office, at Nine Elms, south-west London. (Photograph: Brian Harris).

# America to lift Argentine arms embargo

From Nicholas Ashford, Washington

Despite British misgivings, the Reagan Administration yesterday announced it was taking the necessary legal steps to end the five-year ban on US arms sales to Argentina. The State Department said President Reagan would certify to Congress tomorrow that Argentina has made "dramatic progress" in human rights in the past year and a half, and therefore the arms embargo imposed in 1978 could be lifted. The certification has been deliberately timed to coincide with the inauguration of President Raul Alfonsin in Buenos Aires. Vice-President George Bush is to attend the inauguration ceremony of the democratically elected President. Announcing the move, a State Department spokesman went out of his way to emphasize that certification would only make Argentina eligible to purchase American arms and that requests would be "examined on a case by case basis". He also emphasized that "no arms transfers are contemplated which would increase the prospect of renewed conflict" in the Falklands. The terms in which yesterday's announcement was couched went some way to allay British fears about a resumption of arms sales to Argentina, which attacked the Falkland Islands last year. British objections to US arms sales had been frequently voiced during the past year, most particularly by Mrs Margaret Thatcher. During a meeting with President Reagan in Washington last September the British Prime Minister pointed out that Argentina has still not made a formal declaration of cessation of hostilities after its defeat in the Falklands war. President Reagan gave strong support to Mrs Thatcher during the Falklands conflict, thereby seriously damaging US relations with Latin America. Since then the US has been urging both sides to seek a negotiated settlement. British diplomats reacted cautiously to yesterday's announcement and expressed the hope that any arms sales would only involve spare parts and defensive equipment. They recalled that last month Mr Caspar Weinberger, the Defense Secretary, said the US would not provide sophisticated equipment which could be used to attempt a new invasion of the Falkland Islands. The State Department spokesman himself pointed out that the US has traditionally never been a major supplier of arms to Argentina. The two biggest suppliers, France and West Germany, have already resumed their sales. British diplomats said the US had kept Britain fully informed ahead of yesterday's announcement. Mr George Shultz, the Secretary of State, has been holding talks with Sir Geoffrey Howe, the British Foreign Secretary, during his current

## Tomorrow



**Bernard Levin before The Day After**  
Tropical...  
Forever England in Jamaica  
...aisles  
The joys of singing in a choir  
Playing...  
100 choices for children's presents  
...the game  
Stuart Jones analyses the cup draws in Europe

## Russia puts a stop to start

The Soviet Union refused to set a date for the resumption of the strategic arms reduction talks in Geneva. The deployment of US missiles in Europe was given as the reason for the suspension of the negotiations.

Nate meeting, page 6

## Opec agrees to hold oil price

Opec has agreed to continue the present price and production agreement and will confirm today in Geneva that its prices should remain unchanged for at least 12 months. The decision will remove much of the uncertainty from world financial markets.

Earlier report, page 17

## Lords TV vote

The House of Lords has carried by 74 votes to 24 a motion for the experimental televising of its proceedings.

Parliament, page 4

## It's Carrington

Nato Foreign Ministers yesterday unanimously appointed Lord Carrington to succeed Dr Joseph Luns of The Netherlands as Secretary-General. He takes over next June.

Leading article, page 15

## Britons missing

Two British businessmen have disappeared from their Paris hotels, the British Embassy there confirmed. Both were last seen on December 1.

Page 6

## New year curb

Trafalgar Square's fountains are to be drained and boarded up on New Year's Eve to prevent a repetition of last year's crush, which killed two women.

Page 3

## Plane search

The RAF joined coastguards last night in searching for an aircraft carrying eight passengers from Liverpool which went out of radio contact shortly before it was due at Stornoway, Hebrides.

## Drug profits cut

Cuts in the profits that drug companies make from the health service and in the amount spent on advertising have been announced by the Government.

Page 2

## Rapist's choice

One of three men convicted of rape in the United States and told by a judge to choose between 30 years in prison and castration said he would prefer to be castrated.

Page 8

## Bowling change

A proposal requiring counties to bowl a minimum of 117 overs in a full day's championship cricket will be put to the TCCB at Lord's on Tuesday.

Page 22

# Pressure mounts in Israel to kill or capture Arafat

From Christopher Walker, Jerusalem

The Israeli threat to the evacuation of Mr Yasser Arafat, the leader of the Palestine Liberation Organization from Tripoli was intensified yesterday when Mr Yitzhak Shamir, the Prime Minister, announced that suggestions he should be killed or captured were now under consideration by his Government. Strict military censorship is being employed to prevent reports discussing the military and naval options open to the Israelis. The anti-Arafat atmosphere has been encouraged by a number of powerful cartoons in the local press, one showing him riding on the charred shell of the Israeli ship wrecked in Tuesday's PLO bomb jubilation wading the United Nations flag. Speaking yesterday after visiting the survivors in hospital, Mr Shamir was asked for his response to the call from Mr Ariel Sharon, the former Defence Minister, for the "physical liquidation" of Mr Arafat. "We are considering all the ways of action", he replied. He bitterly attacked the evacuation plan due to get under way in the next 48 hours. "I think it is the subject for the most extreme condemnation of the UN, whose purpose is to safeguard peace and which is giving its protection to such a murderous organization which claims responsibility for this crime", he said. Ministers have denied that the Cabinet agreed to allow Mr Arafat safe passage as part of last month's prisoner exchange with the PLO. Asked if there had been a decision not to block his departure, Mr David Levy, the deputy Prime Minister, said yesterday: "I did not say there had been a decision; nor can I give even a hint that there has been a decision to the contrary. There are matters for which the best response is silence." Meanwhile, the bus attack has prompted outspoken condemnation of a PLO terrorist action by radical Palestinian

## Jailed fans home by Christmas

Luxembourg (Reuters) - The 13 English football fans still held in jails here will be home by Christmas, despite being sentenced yesterday to between one and four months in prison. The chief government spokesman, Mr Andre Claude, said: "Justice must be seen to be done, but basically we want to get them out of Luxembourg." Some England supporters rampaged through the city centre after last month's Luxembourg-England match, in what police said was the worst outbreak of football hooliganism in the Grand Duchy's history. Most of them will serve only a token week or 10 days of their jail terms, for offences ranging from shoplifting to assault. The Government is also prepared to waive fines ranging from £50 to £300 in its haste to be done with the fans. One fan's mother protested at the harshness of the penalties. "They would never have been given such strict sentences in England for such trifles," she said.

## Thatcher condemns US policy

By Our Political Editor  
Two hours before meeting the United States Treasury Secretary, Mr Donald Regan, for talks at 10 Downing Street, the Prime Minister roundly condemned Washington's economic management in the Commons, and praised the British Government's record by comparison. Mrs Thatcher appeared to be provoked by Mr Peter Tapsell, Conservative MP for Lindsey East, who specializes in loaded questions which seem calculated to rouse her. Mr Tapsell's partner in a City stockbroker firm with extensive international connections, invited her when she met Mr Regan to discuss why economic policies which could be described as neo-Keynesian seemed to have brought such beneficial effects so far to the United States. It may have been the words "so far" which gave Mrs Thatcher her cue. Her tone may have been coloured by contempt for latter-day followers of Keynes, or by exasperation at other recent actions of the Americans. She dismissed the Treasury Secretary everything he represented with ringing disdain. The United States budget deficit, she said, was causing big interest rates which were extremely damaging to Britain and other European countries. The United States also had a fantastic balance of trade deficit to clear from Conservatives, and ironic cheers from Labour, she concluded more emphatically than ever: "I would rather be in our position, which is sustainable, than in theirs, which I believe will cause great trouble in 12 months".

## NGA may call all-out strike

By Paul Routledge  
Labour Editor

Leaders of the National Graphical Association are considering an all-out strike which would halt publication of national and local newspapers if peace talks fail to resolve the union's closed-shop dispute with Mr Selim ("Eddie") Shah's Messenger Group. The NGA national council has been called into emergency session in Bedford tomorrow to determine the union's next step if negotiations with Mr Shah collapse. Mr Joe Wade, general secretary of the 133,000-strong craft print union, said last night after talks with the TUC general secretary, Mr Len Murray, that the dispute "could spread into every area of the industry". This could happen if peace moves by the Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service (Acas) fail to yield a settlement or if Mr Shah breaks off the talks. Officials of the NGA went to the London headquarters of Acas last night for a fourth successive night of negotiations conducted at arm's length through conciliators. They went into the peace process deeply pessimistic about the prospect of a deal to end the 23-week-old conflict with the Stockport based Messenger Group over NGA claims for a closed shop and the reinstatement of six dismissed print workers. The Times understands that the plans have been drawn up for a national strike in the printing and newspaper industry as the NGA's "final fling" of opposition to the operation of the Government's new labour laws. Its opposition has already cost it £150,000 in fines for contempt of court orders not to interfere with the production of Mr Shah's newspapers.

## Last phone strikers sent back to work

By David Felton, Labour Correspondent

The Post Office Engineering Union last night called off the final phase of its industrial action against government plans to sell off British Telecom and effectively signalled defeat in its battle to halt the sale. A special meeting of the union's executive has decided to send back to work 1,400 telephone engineers in the international "exchange" London who have been on strike for two months in a dispute which last month threatened to thrust the union into direct conflict with the Government's labour laws. The union backed down from that confrontation and since its delegate conference last month has decided to send back to work all engineers who had been either on strike or locked out in the campaign of industrial action. Mr Bryan Stanley, the union's general secretary, said last night: "The union now has a period to examine and rebuild its resources ready for the many battles we will have to fight in the new year." In spite of Mr Stanley's brave words, the union, which has a left-dominated executive, has decided that the cost of the industrial action was prohibitive when compared with the results. It was clear to yesterday's meeting that the action has had a minimal effect on the highly automated exchanges selected as targets. The campaign, during which the union paid normal wages to the 2,500 strikers, cost more than £2.5m and the union had by the start of this week already used an interest-free £500,000 loan from the Union of Communication Workers. The union's conference decided last month not to defy recent labour legislation and the Government will view the union decision as a victory in its programme to reduce the size and influence of the public sector.

# Drink-drive loophole is blocked

By John Witherow

A potential loophole in the law which could have cleared thousands of motorists facing drink-drive charges and forced the police to revise their latest breath testing machines was blocked in the High Court yesterday. The divisional court overturned a finding by magistrates in Basingstoke, Hampshire, that the print-out from a Lion Intoximeter 3000 machine was not admissible in drink-driving cases. Lord Lane, the Lord Chief Justice, ruled that the magistrates had been wrong to clear Mr Russell Marlow, aged 26, an engineer, of driving with excess alcohol. The magistrates' court decided that the print-out, which had shown Mr Marlow to have been three times over the legal limit, was inadmissible as a statement because it was not intelligible to the average person.



Mr Russell Marlow: "Disappointed".

The case was sent back to the magistrates with a direction to continue the hearing, which had been stopped when the bench decided Mr Marlow had no case to answer. Mr Michael Dineen, counsel for Mr Marlow, said he would appeal to the House of Lords if the divisional court decided that the matter was of sufficient public importance. The Hampshire police appeal against the magistrates' ruling has led to thousands of drink-drive cases being adjourned and an increase in the number of motorists pleading not guilty. Many of these cases will now be heard and, no doubt, pleas will be changed. The High Court ruling will be particularly welcomed by the police as they launch their Christmas campaigns against drinking and driving. The Royal Automobile Club said it was not surprised by the decision but was concerned over the accuracy of the Intoximeters, of which 645 have been distributed to 39 police forces since last May. Lord Lane said that Mr Marlow, of Britten Road, Basingstoke, had been stopped while driving his car on May 11 this year. A breath test on the



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# Government cuts drug firms profits in £100m NHS savings package

By Nicholas Timmins, Social Services Correspondent

The Government announced yesterday cuts in the profits of drug companies can make from the National Health Service and reductions in permissible spending on advertising and promotion.

They will produce savings of more than £100m a year on the NHS drugs bill, Mr Kenneth Clarke, Minister for Health, said.

The cuts were condemned as unnecessary by the Association of British Pharmaceutical Industries, which said that they were likely to damage the industry's ability to produce new products.

But Mr Michael Meacher, Labour's spokesman on health, said that they were inadequate response, and said that companies with a "a license to print money".

Under the package announced by Mr Clarke the target-rate of profit companies are allowed to make will be cut from 25 to 21 per cent from April 1, saving £40m on the total bill in England of £1,250m.

Also, the "grey area" by which companies are allowed to make higher profits of up to 10 per cent will be reduced.

Drug companies' spending on

promotion, which is now about £180m a year and largely funded by NHS sales, is also to be cut.

It will be reduced from 10 per cent of turnover to 9 per cent from 1985/86. Spending above that level will have to be paid back - in effect a fine on promotional overspending.

When fully implemented that should cut promotional expenditure by 25 per cent, Mr Clarke said.

In a full year the measures will produce savings on the NHS drugs bill rising on present estimates from £65m in 1984/5 to well over £100m in later years.

This compares with the industry's total profits from sales in the UK in 1983 of an estimated £200m. The changes will mean that the price freeze on drugs introduced in August as part of the £25m savings agreed then will continue, with few exceptions, through 1984/5 and beyond.

The Government has decided against allowing pharmacists to substitute cheaper, unbranded drugs for brand name products when dispensing prescriptions, unless the family doctor specifies so. Such a move was

recommended in the Greenfield Report published earlier this year, which it has been estimated could save another £25m to £30m.

Mr Clarke said such a measure would lead to divisions in responsibility for the treatment between family doctors and pharmacists and raised "serious practical problems".

Mr Meacher described the decision as owing more "to the arm twisting of the drug companies than to the concern at the general practitioners behind who Mr Clarke seeks to hide".

The Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry said that the cuts were "unnecessarily harsh and against the long-term interests of the UK".

Some Multinational drug companies were likely to reconsider investing in Britain, it said. The cuts are likely to damage seriously the innovative and export capacity of the industry, currently producing a balance of payments surplus of £600m per annum, and one of the world leaders in pharmaceutical research.

## Staff vote of no confidence at Sellafield

The 900 engineering workers at the Sellafield (formerly Windscale) Nuclear Fuels in Cumbria have passed a vote of no confidence in the management because of the contamination incidents in which radioactive material was discharged into the Irish Sea.

Mr Leo Goldsworthy, district organizer for the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers, confirmed yesterday that a mass meeting of union members earlier this week had voted to condemn the way in which the company had kept workers informed about developments.

No further industrial action is planned by the engineering workers, who complained that they read about the incidents in the press almost at the same time as they were being told about them by the company.

A delegation of union members from Sellafield is to meet Dr John Cunningham, Labour MP for Copeland and Labour spokesman on the environment, today.

A spokesman for the engineering workers said that the latest incident had been so serious that it required assurances in the best interests of the nuclear industry and the public. "We are very unhappy over the management's handling of this business", he said.

British Nuclear Fuels refused to comment on the vote because it was an internal industrial relations matter.

Mr Wedgwood Benn claimed at the Sizewell B inquiry yesterday that "every British nuclear power station has become a nuclear bomb factory for the United States".

Mr Benn, a former energy minister, was giving evidence on day 150 of the hearing at the Snape Maltings in Suffolk into the Central Electricity Generating Board's proposal to build an American-style pressurized water reactor (PWR). He suggested that military requirements coloured the board's plans.

"One of the dominant factors which explains the policy of the board and the Atomic Energy Authority in pressing for the PWR is that there are strong military reasons for doing so and the economic and energy arguments are a cover", he said.

The board's leading counsel, Lord Silsoe QC, tried repeatedly but unsuccessfully to persuade Mr Benn to withdraw this statement.

Mr Benn said that he was not criticizing individuals. "In military areas one cannot rely on the truth being told because those who speak are not always properly informed", he said.

At the heart of Mr Benn's claim was his fear that plutonium produced from spent nuclear fuel, if of a suitably high grade, can be used in nuclear weapons manufacture.



Royal portrait: A detail from Bryan Organ's study of the Duke of Edinburgh which was unveiled at the National Portrait Gallery in London yesterday. Commissioned by the painting of the Duke to join a national collection.

## Inquest on banker to be public

By John Witherow

The inquest into the death of Mr Dennis Skinner, the British banker who died in a mysterious fall in Moscow after telling diplomats that the KGB was about to frame him, will now be held in public.

Last month the south London coroner, Dr Mary McHugh, announced after considerable delay that the inquest would be held in secret on December 20. Yesterday she issued a statement saying it would be in public.

Her earlier decision caused some surprise because the Foreign Office had said it saw no reason for the inquest to be held in secret. The *Observer* newspaper had also taken out a High Court injunction to prevent the secret hearing.

Dr McHugh, said last night that she had changed her mind "because the establishment feels it would be more in their interests if it was held in public".

## Arrests at funeral of INLA man

From Richard Ford

Two men were arrested yesterday in violent scuffles by the coffin of an Irish National Liberation Army terrorist when the police moved in to prevent a paramilitary funeral.

A strong police and army presence surrounded the home on the Bannmore estate in north Belfast of Joseph Craven, aged 27, who was shot by the Protestant Action Force. At one stage his family refused to let the coffin leave the house until the police withdrew.

After negotiations with a priest the coffin was carried to a waiting hearse. It was draped with the Irish tricolour and Starry Plough, flag of the Irish Republican Socialist Party. The dead man's black gloves and belt, which were on top, were removed by a senior police officer.

The family of the dead man had not wanted a paramilitary funeral.

## Two views of 'The Day After' A gruesome portrait of nuclear disaster

By David Hewson

The film *The Day After*, which will be shown on independent television at 9.30 pm tomorrow, plots the fictional aftermath of a nuclear catastrophe in a small town in Kansas.

ABC, the American makers, say the film is apolitical, and based on scientific fact.

The prelude to the dropping of the bombs on Kansas City, 36 miles from Lawrence, where the drama was filmed, takes about a third of the running time.

It depicts a worsening international situation in which West Berlin is blockaded. War breaks out in Europe and there tactical nuclear weapons are exploded over advancing Soviet troops. Kansas City was chosen as the focus for the film because it is in the centre of the United States and the presence of missile silos make it a prime target.

Citizens are advised to go to municipal shelters, and a panic for food and supplies develops. The launch of the American missiles is followed by a four-minute sequence showing the mushroom clouds of the attacking Soviet warheads.

The holocaust shatters the fabric of the town's society, leading to looting and chaos in which firing squads execute thieves without trial. The rest of the drama concerns the attempts of a doctor, played by James Frawley, to help stricken people before he falls victim to radiation sickness.

The makers say that it was thoroughly researched to make the result as accurate as possible. Most of the effects in the holocaust sequence, such as the launching of the American Minuteman missiles and the mushrooming nuclear explosions, come from stock film

of the real event skillfully spliced into the dramatic narrative. Make-up artists studied research on the victims of Nagasaki and Hiroshima to create the often gruesome appearance of the cast. Mr Michael Westmore explained: "We found that radiation works in stages. People would at first be badly burnt. Then, as time goes on, they begin to have other frightening things happen including severe internal bleeding and hair loss. We used a chemical called titanium tetrachloride to show the effects of people's bodies smoking. It went way beyond a little blood being shown. It was the most disturbing thing I have ever been involved with."

The makers have advised parents not to allow children to watch the film on their own because of its disturbing scenes.

The Ministry of Defence and Yorkshire Television are still negotiating whether Mr Heseltine will join the discussion programme after the "owing of the film".

Yorkshire Television said that so far only Mr Robert McNamara, the former United States Secretary of State, had confirmed that he would take part in the discussion.

Mr Heseltine has accepted an invitation from TV-am to appear on Sunday to discuss the film with David Frost.

Lady Olga Maitland, founder of Women's Families for Defence, is to attempt to counter the effects of showing of *The Day After* and a mass demonstration at Greenham Common by delivering a personal message of support to Wing Commander M. J. Marsh, the RAF commander at the base, on Sunday (Pat Healy writes).

## A nine-day wonder like soap opera

From Trevor Fishlock, New York

The silence is profound. Two weeks ago there was national controversy in the United States as politicians, pundits, lobbyists and the public had their share of *The Day After*.

While the hullabaloo raged, newspapers and television were full of comment about the programme. Then, quite suddenly, it went away... a nine-day wonder.

For several days before the programme was shown - a hundred million Americans watched it - there was a phenomenal surge of publicity.

Americans were given a warning that the film would be harrowing; telephone hotlines were set up to comfort the distressed; parents were told of the dangers of allowing children to watch; people arranged to see it in groups. It was even reported that the television company president had wept at the preview.

The White House grew jittery, fearing that emotional reactions could damage President Reagan's defence policies and his chances of reelection.

In the event, the film was bathetic. It has been criticized as a mere horror film heavily promoted to improve the ratings and income of the television company.

But for all its soap opera quality *The Day After* had a considerable impact, partly because of the publicity buildup, which meant that by the time the film was shown the country was agog.

Many Americans felt the

quality of the film was beside the point. What they thought important was that for the first time the nuclear issue was brought home to most people, that holocaust was put in terms they could understand: the destruction of a town with which they could all identify.

A man in Kansas said that the film gave Americans an inkling of how people feel in Europe. Many Americans feel that trouble spots are far across the sea, and many of them have never seen the sea.

Public consciousness of the nuclear issue was raised. A debate went on in public and private forums and in schools. Nuclear-freeze and disarmament groups latched on to the programme to press home their message. And by dialling 800-Nuclear on the telephone people could get a nuclear information kit. More than 50,000 did.

The White House responded to the film by putting Mr George Shultz, the Secretary of State, on television immediately afterwards. He was meant to be a calming voice of reason, by some people remarked that they found him more frightening than the film... something Mr Heseltine might consider.

Overseas selling prices: Australia \$25, Belgium \$15, Canada \$20, Denmark \$20, France \$20, Germany \$20, Greece \$20, Hong Kong \$20, India \$20, Italy \$20, Japan \$20, Korea \$20, Malaysia \$20, Mexico \$20, Netherlands \$20, New Zealand \$20, Norway \$20, Portugal \$20, Singapore \$20, South Africa \$20, Spain \$20, Sweden \$20, Switzerland \$20, Taiwan \$20, Thailand \$20, United Kingdom \$20, USA \$20, West Germany \$20, Yugoslavia \$20.

## Ford unions settle for 7.5%

Union leaders representing 44,500 Ford workers settled yesterday for a 7.5 per cent pay offer. Mr Ron Todd, the transport union national officer, said after meeting the management in London: "They have not been prepared to move any further, so we are now winding up negotiations."

The agreement comes after a split vote among Ford workers on a union recommendation to reject the offer and take industrial action from January 3.

Ford said that the pay rise would be between £9.56 and £12.35.

At Halewood, north Merseyside, Ford had to lay off 2,400 production workers from the assembly plant and paintshop 75 minutes before the day shift ended yesterday after six men were out over a discipline dispute. The workers are expected to report back for duty this morning.

Union leaders representing almost a million local authority manual workers, who were told by employers yesterday that they could not finance "even the most marginal" pay increase, have agreed to joint studies to find ways of funding pay rises.

## Bomb charge man remanded

A Belfast man charged in connection with the IRA bombings in London in 1981 was remanded in custody by Marylebone magistrates yesterday to appear at Lambeth Magistrates' Court in London on December 15.

Thomas Quigley, aged 28, a labourer from Belfast, appeared in court on crutches due to an ankle injury before his arrest last Friday. He was charged with conspiring with others in the United Kingdom to cause explosions.

## Safety at naval base criticized

The Government was asked yesterday to set up an independent watchdog committee to monitor safety at the Royal Naval's armament depot at Coulport on the Clyde, which is to be the base for Britain's Trident missiles. Strathclyde Region's policy and resources committee made the call after an independent report into the siting of Trident attacked the Ministry of Defence for failure to provide adequate assurances on safety procedures.

## 3 charged with £26m theft

Three men were remanded in police custody yesterday by Fetham Magistrates' Court, West London, charged with the theft of £26m in gold bars from a Brinks-Mat warehouse near Heathrow airport on November 26.

The men, all from south London, are Mr Anthony Michael White, aged 40, unemployed; Mr Michael John McAvoy, aged 32, a builder; and Mr Brian Robinson, aged 40, a motor trader. Mr Anthony John Black, aged 31, a security guard, was charged with a similar offence on Tuesday.

## NGA may call a nationwide strike

Continued from page 1

The union is due to appear before the High Court in Manchester this morning to answer a further complaint from Mr Shah relating to last week's violent scenes on the printing works picket line at Watling Quay, Warrington, which was not dealt with a week ago because both sides agreed to a week-long truce to allow peace talks to begin.

Mr Wade said last night: "If Mr Shah is not prepared to agree to defer legal action, that clearly implies he has accepted that the negotiations have reached deadlock."

"The result of that deadlock is that the national council of the NGA is meeting on Saturday and they will have to decide what further action they are going to take to prosecute the dispute."

"It might mean it could spread to all areas of the print industry."

This is regarded by NGA leaders as the only card left to play in the dispute that has already seen mass picketing and pressure on advertisers to compel Mr Shah to reemploy the six men dismissed several months ago.

Only the NGA national council could issue a nationwide strike call and before any

stoppage took place the TUC - which is anxious to avoid all-out conflict with the Government's labour laws - would seek to use its good offices to prevent the newspapers from going off the streets.

Mr Wade and other officials of the NGA spent two hours at the TUC last night with Mr Murray, reporting on the gloomy prospects for a negotiated settlement of their dispute with Mr Shah.

Mr Wade said as he left Congress House that the interpretation that the peace talks were not going well was "a reasonable assessment".

The discussions were very complex and fraught.

"That is not to say I am not hopeful we can reach a conclusion. I hope we can reach a settlement of the outstanding issues. Failing that, I hope we will have an agreement to continue the talks over the weekend", Mr Wade said.

Heart-lung man  
Lars Ljungberg, aged 32, Britain's first combined heart and lung transplant patient continued to recover at Hatfield Hospital, west London, last night. He remains weak and is still being fed on a drip.

## Sale room £57,200 for plain blue canvas

By Geraldine Norman

Sale Room Correspondent

A canvas which was painted a uniform bright blue all over by Yves Klein in 1957 was sold by Sotheby's yesterday for £57,200 (estimate £20,000 to £30,000) to a private collector.

It sets an auction record for the artist: the previous high for a plain blue canvas was £37,000 in 1981.

Sotheby's sale of "Modern and Contemporary Art 1945-1983" saw very strong prices for European paintings of the 1950s and 1960s.

A patch of green with squiggles over it against a blue background painted by Jean Fautrier in 1958 made another record at £44,000 (estimate £25,000 to £35,000).

It was a patchwork of colours by Serge Poliakoff at £24,200 (estimate £13,000 to £15,000). The sale totalled £657,701 with 22 per cent unsold.

Letters from Oscar Wilde, his wife and his lover, Lord Alfred Douglas, to a fortune teller in Mortimer Street called Mrs Robinson were among the rarities at the English literature sale.

The first, from Wilde to "the Sibyl of Mortimer Street" dates from 1894, the year before his arrest and trials. It sold for £1,870 (estimate £800 to £1,000).

The next is from Mrs Wilde a fortnight after the arrest. "What is to become of my husband who has so betrayed and deceived me and ruined the lives of my darling boys?", she asks. It sold for £7,920 (estimate £1,500 to £2,000).

## Safety device could have saved 92 lives

By William Norris and David Cross in London and Richard Wigg in Madrid



Ground radar that could have prevented the Madrid crash

Airport failings and gaps in safety measures may have been significant factors on Wednesday's crash at Madrid airport that killed 92 people. The most important may prove to be the fact that Spain has consistently refused to install a device that could have averted the disaster.

First, although the taxiways at Barajas airport are marked with green lights, only two of them may have been working on the path used by the Avio DC9 aircraft as it blundered on to the main runway in dense fog and into the path of the Iberia Boeing 727 as it took off.

Señor Alejandro Barrios, of the Spanish Airline Pilots Association, said that less than 12 hours before the collision the fault was pointed out to the control tower by the pilot of another domestic flight. The reply, according to Señor Barrios, was: "We know about that."

Second, although most important airports have red warning lights to tell pilots they are entering a danger area, Barajas airport has only marker boards that are not illuminated.

Third, the Spanish aviation authorities have consistently refused to install a British ground radar system at Madrid that could have averted the

collision - a system so sensitive it can detect a rabbit on the runway.

The system, which costs £200,000, is manufactured by Racal Avionics. It or similar devices are installed at Heathrow, Amsterdam, Paris, Frankfurt, Rome and Prague. One is under construction at Gatwick. The device means all vehicles

and aircraft are clearly visible on a radar screen.

The inquiry after the world's worst aviation disaster at Tenerife in March 1977, when two Boeing 747s collided in fog on the runway, strongly recommended the installation of ground surveillance radar.

However, in spite of continual pressure from the Spanish

Spanish Air Crashes since 1977				
Date	Location	Aircraft	Dead	
March 77	Tenerife	747/747	585	
April 82	Tenerife	757	146	
Sept 82	Malaga	DC 10	53	
Nov 83	Madrid	747	181	
Dec 83	Madrid	737/DC 9	89	
Total:				1,047

Worldwide in 1982, 683 people died in scheduled airline disasters.

pilots' association, and promises of action in 1976 and 1979, nothing has been done.

After an incident in 1981, when an Iberia Boeing 727 and a foreign airline's Boeing 707 almost collided on the runway in fog, the pilots complained again. Seven months later, the authorities again promised action, with the same result.

There is still no sign of action. Señor Pedro Tena, Director of Civil Aviation, maintained yesterday that Barajas did not need ground radar since the airport was affected by fog on only four days a year.

It is the final responsibility of the pilot to decide whether conditions are safe for take-off. But if flying is authorized by the control tower and other aircraft are operation, there is considerable pressure on him

## Rates curbs Bill will fail, Tory MPs tell Jenkin

The Conservative backbench

1922 executive last night left Mr Patrick Jenkin, Secretary of State for the Environment, in no doubt that he would fail if he attempted to push rate-capping powers through Parliament (our Political Correspondent writes).

A special meeting had been arranged with the executive of the 18 to enable Mr Jenkin to measure the strength of back feeling against his White Paper.

The White Paper, published last August, has not been debated in the Commons despite the fact that the actual legislation could be published next week. Some of the Bill's Conservative opponents say that this indicates ministers' fears of backbench feeling.

Although last night's meeting was private, it is known that at least a third of its members oppose government proposals.

## Korchnoi opts for postponement

By Harry Golombek

Chess Correspondent

After his heavy loss to Garry Kasparov in the seventh game of the Acorn Computer World Chess Championship semifinal, Viktor Korchnoi used his right to ask for a postponement in the match yesterday at the Great Eastern Hotel, London.

The only play was an unofficial match between Tony Miles and the Czechoslovak grandmaster, Vlastimil Hort.

Kasparov leads 4-3 and it will require a tremendous effort on Korchnoi's part to redeem matters.

His is such a dynamic personality that, despite being some 33 years older than his opponent, he may yet come back and regain equality. But the odds must be clearly heavily against him.

The postponed game will be played next Saturday since the ninth game of the Smyslov-Ribli match is due to be played today.

Ribli had the White pieces on



World Chess

Wednesday in his vital eighth game of the match against Smyslov.

Being two points down it was imperative for him to win a game. If he wished to stop Smyslov's impressive progress.

The game followed the line in the Schlechter variation of the Slav Defence which Smyslov had already employed in the sixth game. But on move 9 Smyslov varied from that game, for the better as it turned out, since White was soon suffering from weaknesses in his pawn structure.

However Ribli opened up the game so as to obtain some counterplay with his pieces and Smyslov somewhat unwisely captured a pawn, thereby weakening his own Kingside pawn structure.

## Sports Aid Foundation APPRECIATION

THE GOVERNORS OF Sports Aid Foundation wish to express publicly their appreciation to the following donors for each contributing £2,500 or more to become Benefactors of the Foundation:

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Sir Leslie Porter	Mr John Ribbit, The British Land Company PLC
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THORN EMI	Watney Mann & Truman Brewers Ltd

Sports Aid Foundation is a national non-profit making organisation approved by the Government to raise funds for helping Britain's top amateur sporting competitors with the cost of training for Olympic Games, World and European Championships.

The Prime Minister, Mrs Margaret Thatcher, said of Sports Aid Foundation when launching this Benefactors scheme: "I think you are doing a fantastic job, I think it is very remarkable that since the Foundation was formed (in 1976), Britain has won more and more gold medals and we do congratulate you."

A Sports Aid Foundation Benefactor can be an individual or a company. To become a Benefactor, or to help in any other way, please contact Mr Paul Zetter CBE, Chairman of SAF's Board of Governors.

Sports Aid Foundation, 16 Upper Woburn Place, London, WC1H 0DN. 01-387 9380.

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## Trafalgar Square fountain revels banned to improve new year safety

Tough safety measures to prevent a repeat of the new year crowd hysteria in Trafalgar Square 12 months ago in which two women died were announced yesterday by Mr Leon Brittan, the Home Secretary.

The traditional fountains in the square will be banned and Scotland Yard has said that if the crowd gets too big the police may take action.

Mr Brittan, in a written Commons answer, gave an eight-point plan to allow revels to celebrate the new year in safety.

All Trafalgar Square fountains will be drained and the main ones boarded up to stop people climbing up them.

Electronic visual display boards will be installed to flash messages and crowd control instructions to revelers.

Publicity will remind people of the dangers and encourage them not to drink too much and to behave sensibly.

British Rail will run extra trains in the early hours to cut the risk of a last-minute dash for home.

First-aid facilities will be improved and telephone links

to ambulance control centres provided.

Traffic bollards and a traffic island, which people could stumble over, will be replaced with removable posts.

There will be closer liaison between the police and the fire brigade.

Tube and pedestrian subways under the square will be used by the police to make it easier to deploy officers.

After Mr Brittan's announcement, Scotland Yard said that if crowds become too heavy people may be diverted away from the square.

"The square is not designed for very large crowds and it has been necessary to make some changes to minimize inconvenience and injury," a yard spokesman said.

Sufficient police would be on duty and would be "especially concerned to deter or disperse" rowdy people.

Deputy Assistant Commissioner Edgar Maybanks, who will be in charge of the operation, said: "We are looking forward to a busy but pleasant night. While we have made some changes from last year, they are in the main designed to

help people have a happy time with the minimum of regulation.

"The New Year's Eve celebration in Trafalgar Square is a traditional yet spontaneous expression of human warmth and we do not wish to restrict it unnecessarily."

"We all have a duty - emergency services and revelers alike - to be responsible in our conduct. I am sure that with the traditional good humour of both revelers and police, the new year will be welcomed in the right spirit."

The safety measures were drawn up in consultation with senior police officers, Home Office officials, representatives of the Department of the Environment, Westminster City Council, ambulance services, the fire brigade, London Transport, British Rail and British Transport police.

Their aim was to prevent the ugly scenes of last New Year's Eve when two people died and 143 were taken to hospital. The Metropolitan Police Commissioner, Sir Kenneth Newman, had provided Mr Brittan with a comprehensive report of the deaths.



Dolly mixture: Mr Xavier Roberts in London yesterday with some Cabbage Patch Kids. (Photograph: John Manning.)

## Prince William to get Cabbage Patch Kid

Prince William is to be given his own Cabbage Patch Kid. Mr Xavier Roberts, who created the soft dolls that prefer to be known as their "father," said in London yesterday: "I certainly hope to send one to Prince William by Christmas. I have a number of suitable candidates with me."

It will be one of the individually-made originals from Mr Roberts' American factory, Babyland General Hospital, and not a mass-produced doll from Hongkong.

So ugly that they make ET look like Paddington Bear, the dolls have created a sensation in the United States, with riot in shops and early specimens changing hands on the collectors' market for thousands of dollars.

The launch in Britain spearheaded an international onslaught in 1984, with West Germany targeted for February and Japan for April.

Mr Roberts, aged 28 and from Georgia, the "father" of 300,000 handmade dolls (2% million more have been mass produced in Hongkong to date) is not above sending himself up a bit, with his sort-of Stetson hat and his rattlesnake-skin boots.

He refused to disclose how much money he has made from his Cabbage Patch - an American equivalent of the goosberry bush under which babies are found - but it is clearly enough to have made him a multi-millionaire with a 38-bedroom mansion on 430 acres in the Blue Ridge

mountains, five very large cars and an olympic-size pool.

Mr Roberts considers that his dolls are not bought but "adopted", and supplies "adoption certificates" and "official registration" procedures.

A computer ensures that each doll is different from all the others in some physical detail and in its name. The dolls will sell here for £24.95. About 15,000 have been supplied for Christmas and Harrods has sold several hundred already.

Travel agents are concerned that the holiday price war will lead to a decline in quality, Mr Ronald Jenkins, the new managing director of Olympia Holidays, said yesterday.

His company has announced an average 12 per cent cut in the price of travel to Greece and the Greek islands, after "negotiating right to the bone" on behalf of the British traveller.

Sealink fares to go up

Sealink is to increase fares on car ferries from January 1, because of rising costs. On crossings to Belgium and short journeys to France, the £9.50 fare for drivers and passengers will go up by 50p and on other continental routes by £1. Car rates have also been increased.

A new off-season 72-hour excursion fare, from £90, will be introduced next year between Holyhead and Dun Laoghaire, near Dublin, for any car with two adults.

**£155,000 award for carpenter**

A carpenter was awarded £155,000 agreed damages in the High Court in London yesterday after a joist he was working on broke and he fell 10 feet.

Through his wife, Maureen, Mr Michael Reilly, aged 57, from Stratford, east London, sued his employers, M Conway (Formwork) Ltd, which had denied liability.

**Miner killed**

A miner, Mr James Smith, aged 46, of Blakeley Grove, Alverthorpe, Wakefield, West Yorkshire, was killed yesterday in the first fatal accident at the new Riccal mine in the Selby coalfield. He was crushed by machinery.

**Olivier recovery**

Lord Olivier was making a satisfactory recovery last night after a kidney operation on Wednesday at St Thomas's Hospital, London.

## More university places needed, not fewer, teachers say

By Lucy Hodges, Education Correspondent

Statisticians at the Department of Education and Science were accused yesterday of getting their sums wrong on future university student numbers. Instead of falling by 20 per cent between now and 1984, they would rise over the next six years and then level off.

That challenge to government policy, which assumed that institutions will have to contract or close over the next decade, was published yesterday in a document, *The Real Demand for Student Places*, by the Association of University Teachers, representing 34,000 academics.

It throws into question the "Great Debate" on the future of the universities being orchestrated by the University Grants Committee, based on the education department research.

The so-called Great Debate might well end up as a joke, Miss Diana Warwick, the association's general secretary, said.

The Government's predictions are questioned on two grounds: that they take no account of the rising birth rate in social classes I and II who

go to university in disproportionately large numbers and no account of the increasing numbers of women going into higher education.

"The A.U.T. asks why did the DES not recognize these trends? Why is the DES apparently satisfied with arbitrary judgments?"

The answers to these questions may be embarrassing for the Government but not such an embarrassment as it would be for the nation if adequate provision for future university education is not made," the document says.

The association's other argument for maintaining and expanding the university system is Britain's need for a skilled and educated workforce for economic recovery. It will be pursuing its challenge to the Government's figures with Mr Peter Brooke, the minister responsible for higher education.

The document has been sent to the Prime Minister, MPs, and all university vice-chancellors and principals. Mr Giles Radice, Labour spokesman on education, said yesterday that

research showed that the Government was slamming the door in the face of today's eight-year-olds.

"It shows that if the Government's plans to cut the higher education sector further are carried out, many thousands of qualified young people will be denied the choice of entering university."

The association predicts that demand for university places will rise by 16 per cent between now and 1989 and then return to its present level. It says the proportion of 18-year-olds in social classes I and II will rise from 27 per cent of the total age group in 1977 to 40 per cent by 1998. That will have an effect on student demand.

The proportion of female students has increased from 30.6 per cent in 1970-1 to 41.3 per cent in 1982-3. It says it is reasonable to assume that trend will continue.

*The Real Demand for Student Places* (Association of University Teachers, United House, 1 Penbridge Road, London W14 3HU; free).

## Arthritis drug may be withdrawn

By Thomson Prentice Medical Reporter

A drug introduced to Britain last year as a pain-reliever for sufferers from rheumatism and arthritis may be withdrawn after talks between the Committee on Safety of Medicines and the manufacturers about its side-effects.

The drug, Flosinat, has been under surveillance since it was marketed in September of last year. The Department of Health and Social Security confirmed yesterday that discussions were taking place with Farmatallia Carlo Erba, the manufacturers, of Barnet, Hertfordshire.

A decision on whether to withdraw the drug may be taken when the Committee on Safety of Medicines holds its monthly meeting in London next Thursday.

A spokesman for the company said yesterday: "We have not been asked to withdraw it as far as I am aware, and I would almost certainly be aware of such a request."

Flosinat, available only on prescription, is one of a group of non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs which have indomethacin as an active component.

Indomethacin is known to have such side-effects as headaches, dizziness, gastro-intestinal discomfort, ulceration and bleeding.

## Changing population 'will cost more'

By Nicholas Timmins Social Sciences Correspondent

"Time bombs" that will affect public spending are ticking away as a result of changes in the age structure of the population, politicians were told yesterday.

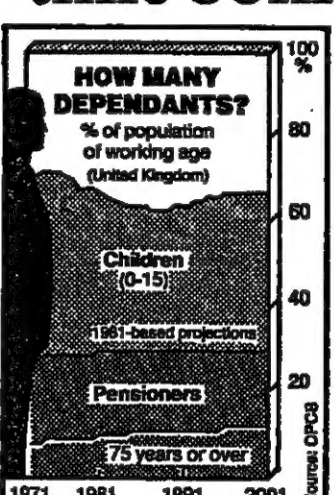
A report from the Simon Population Trust, based on a study by the Policy Studies Institute, argues that Britain's population is likely to remain stable or to grow only slightly until the end of the century.

But the increase in the numbers of very elderly, the entry of children born in the 1955-65 "baby boom" into child bearing age, and a steep rise in the number of pensioners from the year 2010 when the "baby boom" generation start reaching retirement age, will all affect demands on health, social services, housing, education and pensions.

The report says that the review of the state earnings-related pension scheme, recently announced by the government, is urgently needed.

The labour force will at best grow only slowly or at worst decline early next century as the number of pensioners increases, so that there will be two workers per pensioner by the year 2030, against 2.75 at present.

That could mean a 60 per cent rise in pension contributions to a third of earnings on



the worst assumption, or a 40 per cent rise at best.

Other factors may reduce that burden, and with reasonable economic growth it might be acceptable, the report says. "But in a sluggish economy the increases might well be regarded by many as intolerable."

## Cash 'vital' for RSC at Barbican

By David Hewson Arts Correspondent

The Royal Shakespeare Company will be forced to close its London base at the Barbican unless it receives fresh public funds, according to a team set up to scrutinize the workings of the company.

The report by Mr Clive Priestley recommends that the Government provide the extra cash to enable the RSC to continue both in London and Stratford-upon-Avon, but has called for the company to reduce the amount of overtime paid to its production staff, and to renegotiate the working practices of stage staff at the Barbican.

Mr Priestley's team, set up on the Prime Minister's orders, revealed that the two joint artistic directors of the company, Trevor Nunn and Terry Hands, receive annual salaries of nearly £50,000 and £35,000 respectively, although Mr Nunn is on unpaid sabbatical.

Of those salaries, Mr Priestley says: "It is the men not their posts who carry the pay. I do not agree with those who argue that they are overpaid. I do not see why in principle it is wrong to set a high value on merit in the subsidized theatre."

"The joint artistic directors have a remarkable and fitting talent as may be seen in their work on the stage and I have no reason to disbelieve what others have told me, that they could earn more in the commercial sector, especially abroad."

Fancy dress: the Priestley report reveals the details of dressing the part of Queen Victoria in *Poppa*, staged by the RSC

The Queen's missionary costume cost £13,750: £250 for the jacket, skirt and petticoat which were made up by an outside contractor plus 10 metres of jacket and skirt fabric, £85; button boots, £45; hat, £40; jacket trimmings, £25; sash fabric, £10.50; hat veil, £10; fan, £10; petticoat fabric, £9.60; hat straw, £7; painting on sash, £6; net for cap and lace, £5, tights, £3.75; gloves, £3.50; jacket lining, £3.40. The umbrella is a stock prop.



RSC performers earn between £120 and £400 for a 45-hour week, while musicians were paid between £163 and £279 for a 24-hour week. Production workers received a basic average of £9,900, but boosted that to £13,422 with overtime.

Mr Priestley praises the RSC staff for their dedication to the company and concludes that they are not overpaid.

He also rejects the notion that the subsidized RSC offers unfair competition to the commercial West End.

"It seems evident that there are the makings of a 'mixed economy' between the subsidized and the commercial theatre, television and the cinema. Examples of plays which have originated in the RSC and transferred to the West End or to film or television are *Private* on *Parade*, *Educating Rita* and

Nicholas Nickleby." Mr Priestley concludes that there is a "palpable understanding" of the RSC compared with the National Theatre. The company will receive a £3.6m grant from the Arts Council this year but expects an accumulated deficit of £191,000, rising, on present results, to nearly £1.7m by March 1985.

The report recommends that the RSC is given two years to solve the peaks and troughs of work in the production department which give rise to additional overtime and to renegotiate practices at the Barbican. It urges the Arts Council to increase the company's grant for this year to £4.1m and recommends an additional grant to wipe out the £191,000 deficit.

The RSC said yesterday that it had made its observations on the report to Lord Gower, the Minister for the Arts.

## Kidney patient may sue

By Peter Evans Home Affairs Correspondent

A patient who needs dialysis and is denied it by the National Health Service will be treated at a private hospital and the bill for the cost sent to the Department of Health, Mrs Elizabeth Ward, president of the British Kidney Patient Association, said yesterday.

She said she had discussed prospective treatment with private hospital and the next patient she knew who needed it. She agreed it would be a test case. She said that if the Department of Health refused to pay the bill, she would seek legal advice.

According to the association, a registered charity, at least 20,000 patients die each year because of acute renal failure, and Mr Graham P. Morris, a barrister writing this week in *The Law Society's Gazette*, says that kidney patients who cannot get treatment because of lack of equipment or nurses can sue the hospital authority.

Mrs Ward went to see Mr Norman Fowler, the Secretary of State for Social Services, this week to impress on him the urgency of the problem which she says is forcing doctors to play God in deciding who should get treatment.

Mr Morris says the National Health Service Act, 1977, imposes a duty on the Secretary of State to secure improvement in the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of illness.

"It is submitted that such a patient may enforce the public duty imposed upon his area health authority by means of an application for judicial review. Vocal demands by doctors and in the press for an increase in the resources applied to the treatment of kidney patients appear to be producing little or no practical benefit."

## Britain soon to receive satellite TV channel

By Bill Johnston, Electronics Correspondent

The first commercial television channel to be beamed across Europe and received legally in Britain takes to the air on the new European satellite, ECS-1, in 10 days with three hours of family entertainment in the early evening.

By next April Sky Channel, offered by the Satellite Television company, will have expanded to eight hours a day.

From 4 pm until midnight, seven days a week, it will transmit in English a mixture of music, films, sport and light entertainment from studios in London, *Starsky and Hutch*, *Charlie's Angels* and *Vegas* and other American programmes make up a substantial portion of the channel's offerings.

In January, when the service extends from three to five hours, that proportion will be over 60 per cent but by April it is supposed to drop by a third.

It is expected to drop even further once the television companies have concluded effective agreements with Equity for the retransmission of recorded material on cable.

Cable operators in Britain and other European countries will receive the Sky Channel on their antenna and redistribute the programme on their network.

## Counsellor for prostitutes is appointed

The London Borough of Camden has appointed a "prostitution resources officer" to help women who want to stop being prostitutes. Confirming the appointment yesterday, a council spokesman declined to identify the woman, but said that she had been seconded from the social services department for a six-month trial period.

The official will conduct a survey of organizations that could help, including voluntary and statutory welfare agencies, the police, and Job Centres and will probably counsel prostitutes themselves.

It is believed to be first appointment of its kind, although Camden has been campaigning for more than a year to reduce prostitution and its attendant problems.

## Royal butler 'received death-threat calls'

By Craig Seton

Death threats apparently made to Mr Andrew Lightwood, a former royal butler, were being investigated by Gloucestershire police yesterday.

Mr Lightwood said that he would telephone Princess Anne to explain personally why he had left his job at Gatcombe Park, after warnings that he was to be killed.

Buckingham Palace said yesterday that it could not discuss security matters but added that Mr Lightwood, aged 33, could be in breach of his terms of employment in talking to the press.

Mr Lightwood who was for four years in the service of the Queen, became Princess Anne's butler in August but left after reporting to the police that he had received about 14 telephone calls on an unlisted

number at Gatcombe Park from a man with a strong Irish accent who threatened him with death.

Mr Lightwood, who is now unemployed, said yesterday that he had been planning to leave his job with Princess Anne and Captain Mark Phillips because of the pressure of working for the Royal Family but threats had forced him to leave earlier.

The police said that Mr Lightwood had complained to them about the threats and officers were still investigating.

**Museum move**

Plans for a museum of world railways in Peterborough using disused rail warehouses to display locomotives and rolling stock in working condition, are being studied by a group of rail enthusiasts.

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The new commercial television logo



## Minister hopes to save £100m on annual drugs bill

### HEALTH SERVICE

The Government is to attempt to reduce the drugs bill paid by the pharmaceutical industry by reducing the profit drug companies can make from drugs sold to the NHS, Mr Kenneth Clarke, Minister for Health, said in a statement to the Commons. But the Government has decided not to implement the recommendation in a recent report which said that pharmaceuticals should use generic drugs in place of branded drugs unless the prescribing doctor stated otherwise.

Mr Clarke said: "prescription medicines cost the NHS in England about £1,250m in 1982/83. Drugs account for about 40 per cent of the total cost of the NHS, and about 10 per cent of the cost of the NHS as a whole. The pharmaceutical industry's profits from NHS sales are covered by the non-statutory Pharmaceutical Price Regulation Scheme which was introduced in its present form in 1978.

However, the present scheme has run unaltered for over five years. We have decided both to reduce the level of profit from NHS business and the level of sales promotion allowed as an expense under the Scheme. First, under the scheme each pharmaceutical company participating in it is assigned a target rate of profit. We have decided that these targets should be reduced by an average of 4 percentage points which will represent a saving to the NHS in the UK of about £40m a year. We have also decided to allow a discretion which our department allows in certain circumstances when companies exceed their target profit rates should be tightened and related more closely to a company's particular circumstances. Companies will be told what their new targets are very shortly.

Second, the industry will spend about £150m this year on sales promotion. We propose, first, that companies should be asked to repay to the department a sum equivalent to any sales promotion expenditure which exceeds the level allowed under the scheme, and second, that the industry limit should be reduced from the present level of 10 per cent of turnover to 9 per cent in 1985-86. We estimate that when fully implemented these measures should reduce actual expenditure on sales promotion by 25 per cent but we will review this again to see if further reduction can be made.

All measures I have announced will take effect from 1 April next.

### Mawhinney: A triumph for vested interests

Mr James Mawhinney, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, said in the Commons that it was certainly not a triumph for vested interests.

Mr Mawhinney, the Official Unionist member of the Northern Ireland Assembly who was murdered yesterday (Wednesday) by a Provisional IRA gunman, had been advised about extra protection which could be offered to him but there was no intelligence to suggest that he was a specific terrorist target.

He said Mr Graham's cold-blooded murder clearly demonstrated the brutality of terrorism. The security forces had continued their dedicated efforts to combat terrorism. So far this year 580 people had been charged with terrorism offences, including 66 with murder and 59 with attempted murder. Some 204 weapons, over 34,568 rounds of ammunition and 3,762 lbs of explosives had been recovered in the same period.

The Government and the security forces (he said) will not be diverted from their tasks.

Mr Harvey Proctor (Ballyclare, Co. B) said Mr Mawhinney's death was a tragedy. It was a tragedy to the people of Northern Ireland and to the world. It was a tragedy to the people of Northern Ireland and to the world. It was a tragedy to the people of Northern Ireland and to the world.

Mr Mawhinney's death was a tragedy. It was a tragedy to the people of Northern Ireland and to the world. It was a tragedy to the people of Northern Ireland and to the world. It was a tragedy to the people of Northern Ireland and to the world.

## Problems of protection that face RUC

### TERRORISM

Mr James Prior, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, said in the Commons that it was certainly not a triumph for vested interests.

Mr Prior said that the RUC was a police force and it was not a military force. It was a police force and it was not a military force. It was a police force and it was not a military force.

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South, OUP. It is not a proper excuse for security people to say that victims of terrorism have not asked for personal protection, especially if they were aware of the danger and when they tell us that the security authorities know best.

No responsible politician would ask for personal protection which was not intelligence to suggest that he was a specific terrorist target.

Mr Prior: It would be quite unreasonable if the decision on whether protection was to be given was left to the police to make. It is only right if the police think there is a degree of risk, that they should say that protection is to be given and should be given.

As I understand it, through the offices of Mr Smith, inquiries were made following the view that there was a threat to Mr Graham. Mr Graham was then seen. He was advised about additional protection which he could take for himself and which could be offered to him.

He was not considered to be at greater risk than any other person and there was no intelligence to suggest that he was a specific target.

The problem from the RUC point of view is that they get information about a threat to a number of people. Then they have to form a judgment as to how much protection they are to give to everyone under these circumstances.

Mr Prior: The future of the assembly depends on all people in Northern Ireland. It is true to say that the nationalist communities and the unionist communities have a veto on progress if that is the way the best way forward was for both sides to come together.

The Rev Ian Paisley (Antrim North, DUP): It is the purpose of the IRA and the INLA to smash the assembly so it believes the assembly is a threat to their cause. We are behind the assembly.

Mr Prior: I am convinced the purpose of the IRA and the INLA and other terrorist organizations is to bring about a situation of total anarchy in Northern Ireland and we are playing into their hands if we allow that.

Mr John Hume (Foyles, SDLP): Very few people in Northern Ireland have any faith in the Assembly. The two main parties sitting in the assembly, one of which has just withdrawn, both reject the terms of devolution to power which the Government laid down before the Assembly elections took place. That is the fourth occasion in a decade the terms had been rejected.

Mr Prior: That exemplifies the problem I have. One major party rejects it for one reason and the other rejects it for precisely opposite reasons.

## Brent scenes 'amount to mob rule by fascist left'

Mr Thatcher, the Prime Minister, condemned as "contrary to every tenet of democracy" the scenes at London Borough of Brent Council the previous night when protesters intervened and Conservatives and Liberals were prevented from taking control of the council. Mr Neil Kinnock, Leader of the Opposition, said he was "glad to see the council members being prevented from taking control of the council."

Mr Thatcher: I am sure that the scenes at Brent were a disgrace. It is a disgrace to the council and to the borough. It is a disgrace to the council and to the borough. It is a disgrace to the council and to the borough.

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## EEC near agreement on fisheries package

Mr Thatcher, the Prime Minister, said that the EEC was near agreement on a fisheries package. He said that the package was a "very important stage in the development of fisheries policy."

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## Peers accept case for televising proceedings of the House

### HOUSE OF LORDS

Viscount Whitelaw, Lord President of the Council and Leader of the House of Lords, said in a Lords debate that, speaking only for the Government, he supported a motion by Lord Soames (Co.) for the televising of some proceedings of the House for an experimental period and that he would vote in favour of it.

The motion instructed the sound broadcasting committee to consider and report how the decision should be implemented.

Moving it, Lord Soames said that providing the business of the House was transmitted was carefully selected and well-edited under strict ground rules, designed to facilitate the imparting of information rather than knocking or mocking the speaker and that members must do more good than harm.

It was not only the best second chamber the country had, but the best second chamber the country was likely to have for as far ahead as one could see.

We should set about trying (he said) to make the most of ourselves and go to some trouble to see that the work we do is known about by the public and hopefully that it is well thought of.

The powers of the House had been cut to the bone and it had been threatened with extinction. There was a strong body of opinion which believed that the House was necessary and that we were therefore in principal well disposed towards the House.

I believe (he added) that the public would be able to see at work at the House of Lords. The House of Commons had shown but scant inclination to lead in this matter. If past performance was any guide, if the Lords were again to take a decision from the Commons, they might be waiting for an endlessly long time.

Viscount Whitelaw said: I must make it clear that speaking only for myself, I strongly support the motion and will vote in favour of it. (Cheers) I have been a strong supporter of televising Parliament, both this House and the Commons, since the debate in 1966 when I was on the losing side.

He was obliged on behalf of the Government to state the obvious - that it would wish to study carefully the public expenditure implications of any scheme for the televising of Parliament. On the general principles with which they were concerned, the Government remained neutral - though some more neutral than others.

When sound broadcasting was introduced on a permanent basis in 1974, it began the House at the same time. If this motion was carried, it might well be that a television experiment took place in the House of Lords alone. His colleagues in the House of Commons felt this was bound to lead to some practical and political problems.

Undoubtedly, any decision to televise would put pressure on the Commons to follow suit. He believed it was important that they should not act in a way which would make it difficult for the Commons to take its own decisions in its own time. It might be, therefore, that the best way for them to proceed would be, as the motion said, by way of experiment for a limited period only.

An experiment in the Lords would give the Commons a breathing space to consider its own plans and the experience might prove helpful to it in deciding how to go forward.

more difficult job than any MP in this respect.

Was there any evidence that the allegation of collaboration between the killers, who had more in common with each other than with anyone else, was true?

Mr Prior: There is no specific evidence although there is a good deal of anecdotal evidence to that effect. Those who take the responsibility of democratic government in Northern Ireland have an extraordinarily difficult job and I thank them for the part they play.

Mr Michael Latham (Rutland and Melton, Co. Le.) with the unending abominations and atrocities coming from this trouble Province there is great support for Mr Prior in all corners of the House for doing his duty. MPs are prepared to see that he gets whatever resources he needs to restore law and order.

Mr Prior: I have asked the GOC and the Chief Constable if they require additional resources and they say they do not. But if they come to me asking for extra resources, I know the Government will grant them.

Mr James Molyneux, leader of the Ulster Unionists (Lagan Valley, Co. DUP): Will he ensure that financial considerations will in no circumstances affect the operation or the efficiency of the security forces and will the Government give the highest possible priority to the elimination of terrorism which must be a prerequisite of any form of political process?

Mr Prior: I am grateful for what he says. We would be planning the hands of the terrorists if as a result of this Assembly failed.

It is not our policy to contain violence, Mr Prior said later. It is our policy to defeat violence. But it must be left to the General Officer Commanding and the Chief Constable to determine the manner in which to conduct these operations.

Our security forces are on an operational footing and everything that has to be done will be done. It is all very well MPs and other making out that we are only half-hearted and we are not doing it. But the suggestion that we are only half-hearted is within the law. And it must be within the law.

There were a number of ways in which the experience could be arranged, and each raised important questions of editorial control, judgment and selection. He said the most practical scheme for an experimental period would be the so-called "drive-in" scheme. But any such decisions would not limit the option for the longer term in the Lords or Commons.

One of the problems from the Government's point of view was in connection to ministerial statements. It might be thought inappropriate if only the repetition of such statements in the Lords were to be made, though this could be overcome by inhibiting the televising of statements originally made in the Commons. If it was thought he had put this in to phrase his colleagues in the Commons, that would be correct. (Laughter)

The Bishop of Chichester (the Rt Rev Eric Kemp) said he supported the motion. He said that the General Synod of the Church of England had been televised for several years and he had not noticed any tendency of members to play to the camera. He said that he had not noticed any tendency of members to play to the camera. He said that he had not noticed any tendency of members to play to the camera.

Lord Peyton of Yeovil (C), in a maiden speech, said he believed he was wrong to support the introduction of sound broadcasting. When the interests of television and Parliament came into conflict, it was likely that those of Parliament would in the long run be eroded.

Television was a thrusting and intrusive medium and those who handled it were in the hands of a few. Persuading themselves that their interests should always come first on the grounds that they coincided inevitably with the national interest, they had put this in to phrase his colleagues in the Commons, that would be correct. (Laughter)

There were several other matters which would need to be resolved, including the physical accommodation of the equipment and operating staff, restrictions on the use of extracts, the copyright of the recordings, the question of whether an archive of the recordings should be retained in Parliament, and the question of the right of members of the Commons to be given careful consideration by the Sound Broadcasting Committee, if the motion was agreed to.

Lord Shackleton (Lab) said, in supporting the motion, that he did not believe it would be possible in the long run for the Lords to be televised and for the Commons not to be. The Lords had a reputation for pioneering so they ought not to wait any longer. Televising would come sooner or later, as it had in other parts of the world. He hoped it would lead to a greater understanding by the public of what actually happened in Parliament.

He was confirmed in his belief that they ought to go this way by the likely development of cable television. Before now, there had been a shortage of space when Parliament would be competing with more entertaining activities. Lord Whelan (L) said television now used sound bites in association with still pictures or cartoons. If

## Output level above the cyclical peak in 1979

### PM's QUESTIONS

Conservative governments had been very good for Britain, as was recognized at the last general election, Mrs Margaret Thatcher, the Prime Minister, said in the Commons in reply to a question.

Mr Neil Kinnock, Leader of the Opposition (Islwyn), asked if the Prime Minister had seen the figures which said confirmed a 25 per cent national rate of increase in business failures?

Which policies (he asked) is she going to change to reverse this said trend?

Mrs Thatcher: Unemployment appears to have peaked. The number of vacancies is not increasing as fast as we would wish. There is considerable interest in new enterprise allowances, and as he will have seen from what trends there is a record number of people who are self-employed.

Mr Kinnock: Does she agree with me it is extremely sad that in four years there has been a drop in competitiveness to the tune of 30 per cent. Investment has gone down by 20 per cent and per cent and the recovery she talks about, if the present rate of progress was

sustained, it would take 160 years to get back to the level of 1979. Is that 160 year rate a medium-term or long term strategy?

Mrs Thatcher: Output per head and per hour now are 11 and 14 per cent above the previous cyclical peak in 1979. When the Chancellor of the Exchequer gave full details of capital expenditure, he pointed out that when you have a true definition of capital expenditure it is about the same now as it was in 1978-79.

Mr David Wainwright (Walsell North, Lab): While recognizing that hardly anything has gone right for the Prime Minister in the last few weeks - (Interruptions) - is it not unjust to attribute the failure of the Ministry of Commerce of the job of coordinating Government policy?

Why does she not recognize, like the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (Mr Prior) and the Secretary of State for Wales (Mr Peter Walker), in their code of way, that it is the policies themselves which are so damaging for Britain, and not the coordination of those policies?

Mrs Thatcher: I note he thinks to get inflation down is damaging for Britain, although the record is far better than Labour's. We have been far better on the National Health Service than the Labour Government. The last Labour Government actually reduced provision for the NHS in real terms in two of the five years they were in office.

## PM attacks economic policy of US

Mrs Margaret Thatcher, the Prime Minister, said during question time in the Commons that United States high interest rates were extremely damaging to Britain and that the United States economic policies would cause great trouble in a year's time. Britain's position was sustainable but it was not sustainable in the long term.

Mr Peter Tappin (Lindsey East, C) had asked: When later today she receives the United States Secretary of the Treasury, Mr Don Regan, will she discuss with him the reasons why the economic policies which could broadly and fairly be described as neo-Keynesian seem to have brought such beneficial effects so far to the United States. Budget is finalized, could the principles of British economic policy be rigorously re-examined with an open mind? (Labour cheers)

Mrs Thatcher: In spite of what he says, a budget deficit of this kind is causing high interest rates which are extremely damaging to this country and other European countries and are preventing us from getting the amount of investment we should have here by drawing a lot of capital to the United States.

I would rather be in our position which is sustainable than in theirs, which I believe will cause great trouble in 12 months.

Mr Tappin: I am sure that the scenes at Brent were a disgrace. It is a disgrace to the council and to the borough. It is a disgrace to the council and to the borough. It is a disgrace to the council and to the borough.

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مكتبة الأصيل



## MPs criticize DHSS for not knowing level of social security fraud

By Nicholas Timmins, Social Services Correspondent

Severe criticism of the Department of Health and Social Security for being unable to assess how much is being lost in social security fraud and uncollected National Insurance contributions has come from the Commons public accounts committee.

An estimate by a DHSS economic adviser that £500m a year might be being lost was dismissed by Sir Geoffrey Otton, second permanent secretary at the department, as hypothetical, in evidence to the committee.

He told the committee that a Rayner study estimate that 8 per cent of claimants were working might be too high.

But the committee says: "Whilst DHSS suspected that there was a good deal of undetected fraud, they had no enthusiasm for attempting to guess how much they were allowing to get away."

While noting that most detected fraud is for small sums, special claims control investigations "appear to indicate that a good deal of undetected fraud exists", the committee says.

"We are surprised at DHSS's attitude to the paucity of information on the extent of undetected fraud."

The large gaps in the department's knowledge mean it lacks a satisfactory basis for

deploying staff on anti-fraud activities, and until random sampling of claimants, recommended by the Fisher Committee in 1973, or an alternative system is introduced, "it appears to us that... it will remain uncertain how far discovered benefit fraud represents the measure of the whole problem."

While the department argues that random sampling would involve the investigation of people about whom there was no suspicion, the committee says that such an approach could hardly be more objectionable than the present system where some investigations are launched on the basis of anonymous letters.

"Overall we do not find at all satisfactory the present situation - or the DHSS's attitude on the lack of firm information on the extent of benefit fraud."

The department has estimated that increased anti-fraud activity since 1980 had produced savings in two years of £38m, but there had been criticism that the figure was exaggerated, the committee says.

It also gives a warning that the abandonment in 1982 of the Camelot computerized system for paying benefits meant that new computerized systems would not come in until 1986 at the earliest.

"Over a period of eight years the DHSS will have failed to eliminate a weakness in their systems which leaves many claims open to error and increased the risk that fraud and abuse will not be prevented", the committee says.

Despite warnings from the DHSS that the new system would be operational only by 1986 "if all went well".

On underpayment of National Insurance contributions by company directors and others with fluctuating earnings, the committee says £50m in under payment was detected in 20 months. But the committee said it is not clear whether all were pursued and recovered.

The report is likely to prove of embarrassment to the Government, which promised tough action in 1979 to tackle benefit fraud and under payments of National Insurance contributions.

Committee of Public Accounts report: House of Commons Paper 102 (Stationery Office: £4.15).

Mr Rhodes Boyson, Minister for Social Security, has ruled that 55,000 invalidity pensioners, who moved on to long-term supplementary benefit from last month, should be eligible for one-off payments which would amount to as much as £8m (Our Political Correspondent writes).



Crime fighters: Mr Brian Hayes, chief constable of the Surrey police force which pioneered the use of police dogs in this country, with his latest recruit, Una, an alsatian aged three months. He will take charge of her early training.

### Social trends: 2

## More children gain O levels and go on to college

By Lucy Hodges, Education Correspondent

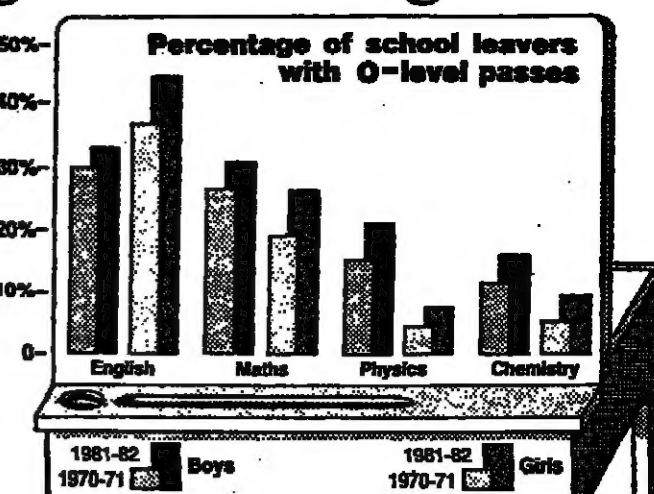
More boys and girls are passing O levels at school than they did 10 years ago, with girls doing better than boys at English and boys doing better in mathematics, physics and chemistry.

According to figures in *Social Trends*, 55 per cent of school-leavers in Britain had more than one O level pass (grade A to C) in 1981-82 compared with 50 per cent in 1971-72. In the 10 years between 1970-71 and 1981-82 the proportion of boys leaving school with O level passes in English, mathematics, physics or chemistry increased by 3, 4, 6 and 4 percentage points respectively. Among girls the corresponding increases were 7, 7, 4 and 4 percentage points.

The figures were as follows:

	Boys		Girls	
	70-71	81-82	70-71	81-82
Eng	30	33	37	44
Maths	27	31	19	26
Phys	15	21	4	8
Chem	11	15	5	9

In the six years from 1976 to 1982, there was a 19 per cent drop in primary pupil numbers because of the decline in the birth rate and numbers are expected to fall by a further 15 per cent by 1991. That will lead to a further 5 per cent drop in primary rolls and to a 25 per cent fall in secondary rolls.



Most secondary school children now go to comprehensives. In 1971 38 per cent went to comprehensives, but by 1982 it was 85 per cent in England and more than 95 per cent in Scotland and Wales.

The number of pupils staying into the sixth form has increased, from 27.5 per cent in 1975-76 to 29 per cent in 1980-81. The number going on to further and higher education has also risen, from 22.5 per cent in 1975-76 to 28 per cent in 1981-82.

Nearly a third of girls leaving school in 1981-82 went on to further or higher education, compared with just under a quarter of boys. "The trend for more school-leavers to go on to full-time further education is probably associated with rise in unemployment among young people", the report said.

The increase in the number of 16-year-olds unemployed reflected the national picture. In 1981-82, only a third of 16-year-old boys and a quarter of girls had jobs, compared with nearly half of 16-year-olds in 1975-76.

The figures show that there has been an improvement in the pupil-teacher ratio from 20.2 to 19.0 pupils per teacher between 1976 and 1982. They also show that education increases a person's earning power, and that nearly half of all college students in 1981-82 had fathers in the professional and employers and managers socio-economic groups.

*Social Trends 14*, Central Statistical Office (Stationery Office, £19.95).

Tomorrow: Housing

## Astronauts to test 'Buck Roger's jet'

By Pearce Wright, Science Editor

The first jet pack for propelling astronauts about in space Buck Rogers-style will be tested in orbit next month.

If successful, it will be used later in the year by an astronaut repair spacecraft, the solar maximum satellite, so it can resume monitoring flares and variations in particles emitted by the Sun, which influence the Earth's climate and radio communications.

A description of the back pack was given by Mr C. J. Meechan, vice-president for strategic planning, North American space operations, Rockwell International, California, to a meeting of the Royal Society in London yesterday.

After reviewing the achievements of the Shuttle, Mr Meechan outlined progress on other projects for launching new types of satellites, the first large optical telescope (in 1996), orbiting laboratories and, by the early 1990s, large permanent space platforms.

But each goal had first to be backed by new equipment and methods for working and manoeuvring in space, he said. Those technologies were being tested in the early Shuttle flights.

Mr Meechan singled out the ability to make repairs and rescue of spacecraft as crucial to future projects. Rescue schemes were concentrated on restoring satellites to working order.

In answer to questions, he said that the Shuttle was not equipped to link up with a Russian spacecraft if a cosmonaut crew needed rescuing.

However, he suggested that a Soviet spaceman in a pressurized suit could be picked up from space by the Shuttle if its cargo doors were open. The cosmonaut would then be brought into the cabin.

Mr Meechan saw no technical objection to equipping a Shuttle with a device to lock on to a Soviet spacecraft. However, a similar device for coupling would also be needed on the Russian vehicle.

He said that the apparatus known as the androgynous docking collar, which was built for the Apollo-Soyuz mission, the only time the Americans and the Russians conducted a joint manned space programme, would be adequate for standard rescue equipment to be carried on all manned vehicles.

## Footballer found gassed

Robert Wilson, aged 22, the Fulham footballer, and his wife Lesley were seriously ill with carbon monoxide poisoning yesterday after being gassed in the house that they moved into less than a month ago.

The couple were found unconscious at their semi-detached house in Woosehill, near Wokingham, Berkshire, early yesterday, by Mr Charles Grumley, Mr Wilson's uncle.

It is believed that they had lain unconscious for up to 24 hours.

He failed to revive them and they were taken to the intensive care unit of the Royal Berkshire Hospital, in Reading.

Southern Gas said yesterday: "We did not install any of this equipment but we have been called in by the police to carry out a full investigation."



Robert Wilson: Seriously ill

## Newspaper complaints rejected

Complaints against two local newspapers are rejected by the Press Council today.

The *Lincolnshire Star* had been accused by Mr T. G. B. Barnes, a defeated Boston town election candidate of influencing an election by publishing an early report and photographs of his rivals on polling day.

But the editor, Mr George Wheatman, said the report of a pavement debate between Mr Barnes's rivals had nothing to do with the election. His newspapers did not take sides.

In the other case, the *Hornsey Journal* had been accused of conspiracy with a ratepayer who emptied a bag of rubbish on a council official's desk.

Mr Nicholas Windrum emptied the rubbish on the desk of Haringey Borough Council's public relations officer, Mr Marcus Grodenitz, watched by a reporter and photographer.

Mr Roy Lumb, the London council's chief executive, said Mr Windrum had been granted access to the office only because a receptionist recognized the journalists with him. Their presence induced Mr Windrum to do what he did.

But Mr Michael Pearce, the editor, said his staff had simply recorded the event. They would not otherwise have got the story because of a council boycott of the newspaper.

## Grant for railway study

The English Tourist Board has agreed to contribute £4,000 towards a study of Carlisle-Settle railway line which is threatened with closure.

The survey, which started on Monday, has been commissioned by a steering committee from Cumbria, West Yorkshire and Lancashire county councils and will cost £32,000.

The Cumbria Tourist Board asked the English Tourist Board for a financial contribution because it wanted to emphasize the line's potential for tourism. It felt that the

initiative by local authorities should be supported.

Cumbria and West Yorkshire are contributing £10,000 each. Lancashire County Council, district town and parish councils along the route and other interested bodies such as the Countryside Commission are also contributing.

Cumbria County Council said yesterday that the survey consultants would report in six months. Formal closure of the line is expected next week and a public hearing is likely to be held next autumn.

# Vernons and Restormel Borough used it carefully!

...and as a result, they're the winners of this year's Gas Energy Management Awards for industry and commerce.

Every year the gas people present these awards to those organisations which, working in partnership with the Technical Consultancy Service engineers of their Gas Region, are judged to have made the most significant contribution to energy conservation.

### GEM Award for Industry.

Vernon & Company (Pulp Products) Ltd, of Bolton, produce a range of high quality disposable items for hospitals under the brand name of Vernaid.

They are made by an ingenious process using reclaimed cellulose fibre derived from newspapers!

Energy used for drying accounts for 20% of Vernon's product costs, so they are very energy-conscious and, working closely with the engineers from the North West Gas Technical Consultancy Service, have adopted a wide range of energy management ideas which have resulted in a 25% fuel saving.

A further TCS project is

being considered which could lead to even greater savings.

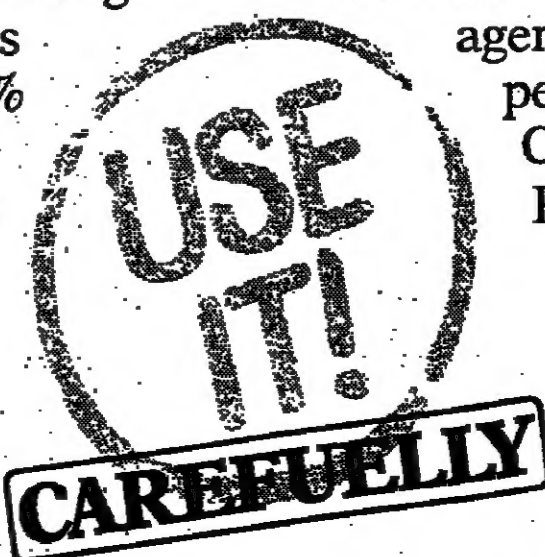
### GEM Award for Commerce.

At St Austell, in Cornwall, in the Borough of Restormel is the Polkyth Leisure Centre. It is a multi-purpose sports complex built in 1974/75 and includes a swimming-pool, squash courts, general sports hall, sauna and solarium.

Naturally, a lot of energy is used here, and the Borough Council, being cost-conscious, consulted the Technical Consultancy Service Engineers at South West Gas about the recovery of waste heat. Several schemes were considered and a gas engine-driven heat pump was installed which, with other measures, has resulted in an overall saving of 72%.

### Profit from our experience.

If these high efficiency achievements interest you, you owe it to yourself, and your shareholders or ratepayers, to find out more. For details of these and other case histories from the Gas Energy Management Awards, write to the gas people - British Gas, Technical Consultancy Service, 326 High Holborn, London WC1V 7PT.



## WONDERFUEL GAS - FROM THE GAS PEOPLE



# Israelis find six reasons to justify their policy of getting tough with Syria

From Christopher Walker, Jerusalem

Mr Yitzhak Shamir's Government is basing its new hard-line military policy in Lebanon - particularly the renewal of bombing raids - on the central assumption that Syria has recently lost its initiative there.

In an interview with *The Times*, a senior official with close links to Mr Shamir gave a warning that any withdrawal of the European contingents of the peacekeeping force in Beirut would be seen as "an endorsement of Syria and would lead automatically to greater instability and more bloodshed."

He outlined six reasons why the Government believes Syria has lost the upper hand and can be more easily persuaded by a tough military policy to rethink its refusal to contemplate withdrawing its forces. He said that all of them were shared by the Reagan Administration and had been discussed extensively during the recent Washington summit.

The reasons given were:-

- President Assad's serious illness. Israeli intelligence is now "more or less certain" he suffered a severe heart attack, with complications from diabetes and a probable blood clot in the head. The official said President Assad was being treated by a leading neurologist as well as a cardiologist.

- The fact that Syria discovered at the Geneva conference that the Lebanese Salvation Front was not standing as firmly or unitedly behind it as had been expected.
- Information that the Soviet Union has recently told Syria it does not want the renewal of full-scale warfare in Lebanon or the breakdown of the Geneva conference. Israel concludes that Russia's stand has reduced the chances of global conflict erupting in the region. President Andropov's illness is regarded as a key reason for the Soviet call for restraint.

- The Syrians had not realized that President Amin Gemayel of Lebanon would stand up so resolutely against its demand for abrogation of the May 17 Israel-Lebanon pact.

- The Syrians were also taken back by the recent resumption of Israeli air attacks in Lebanon. "Four months they believed that we would not retaliate because they did not think the Israeli public would wear it," the official told me. "They now know differently."

- The "very tough stand" taken by the Americans, whom the Israeli Cabinet believes are no longer afraid to stand up to the Arab world, largely because of the blunting of the oil weapon.

The official argued that there

was no contradiction in the recent strategic cooperation agreement with the United States and the stringent denials from Jerusalem and Washington of any collusion over last weekend's air raids.

He claimed that the Washington agreement had covered the broader field of cooperation rather than tactical coordination on the ground. "The Israel Defence Forces do not like tactical arrangements with other defence establishments. They prefer to operate independently," he said.

The official hinted strongly that more Israeli attacks in Lebanon could be expected because of the Government's assessment that Syria was unprepared to escalate the conflict into a Middle East war. The evidence is that the Syrians are prepared to fight to the last Druze or Palestinian militiaman, but not to the last Syrian soldier, he said.

According to military experts here, both the Druze and Palestinians have recently lost much of their motivation for fighting as Syrian proxies against Israel - the Druze because they have achieved their objective of control in the Chouf mountains, and the Palestinians because of the bitter fighting inside the PLO.

## Four agree to keep troops in Lebanon

From Ian Murray, Brussels

The urgent need to pool the information collected by the four countries making up the multinational "peacekeeping" force in the Lebanon, was agreed by the foreign ministers of the US, Italy, France and Britain when they met over breakfast in Brussels yesterday. The view put forward by Sir Geoffrey Howe was that they could all do more behind the scenes at the political level to try to bring about a reconciliation between the different factions in the country. It was also agreed that the security interests of Syria had to be respected.

At the same time, under strong pressure from the Americans, the Italians promised to maintain their force at present levels, although it was clear that Signor Giulio Andreotti, Foreign Minister, wanted some to be withdrawn.

"I think that we can and must return to the initial agreements with the Lebanese Government," he said later. "Those agreements are about 1,100 Italian troops in Beirut. Now we have doubted that number. But the withdrawal has to be done in the light of the new situation in Sabra and Chatila and in the light of the Lebanese reconciliation process. Italy does not want to be responsible for failure of the Geneva talks."

The ministers did not, however, talk about withdrawal, their spokesmen insisted afterwards, and M Claude Cheysson, the French Minister, said: "It would be completely wrong on our part to reduce our involvement while there is hope that the Geneva reconciliation talks can succeed."

It was the first time the four ministers had got together to discuss the Lebanon since their meeting in Paris on October 27.

They used the occasion to emphasize that the mission was a peaceful one with the twofold objective of helping reconciliation in the Lebanon and "ensuring the withdrawal of all foreign forces. The intention was 'to deescalate and not reescalate the violence' in the words of an American official.

As far as reconciliation was concerned, "there has been some movement, but we want to see more." The ministers felt "this was a two-way street." Although they wanted the government to act "there are other players and there is as much need for them to move."

In this context, the Americans agreed that the different countries in the multinational force had contacts "with different factions and different players." It was vital that they should pool their information so that they could have a better chance of helping the reconciliation process.

## Gemayel will spend two days in London

By Our Diplomatic Correspondent

President Amin Gemayel of Lebanon will pay his first official visit to this country on December 13 and 14, Downing Street announced yesterday. He is coming at the invitation of Mrs Margaret Thatcher, who will host a luncheon at Number 10 during talks on the Lebanon crisis next Wednesday. The president will also see Sir Geoffrey Howe at the Foreign Office, but it is not yet known which, if any, other Beirut ministers will be accompanying him.

## Marines may move to safer ground

From Nicholas Ashford, Washington

The Pentagon is preparing to move US Marines from Beirut Airport either to safer ground in Lebanon or to amphibious ships off the coast, according to reports yesterday in several American newspapers.

The *New York Times* said the plan was still being worked out by the joint chiefs of staff and had not yet been presented to the National Security Council. However, the Administration is expected to welcome any workable suggestion to improve the safety of the Marines.

Washington has been weighing various options since the bombing of the Marine headquarters on October 23, which resulted in 240 deaths. A further eight Marines were killed when

their positions were shelled after last Sunday's air raid by US jets against targets in Syrian-occupied Lebanon.

One plan would involve moving the Marines south of the airport along the road to Tyre where they would be away from the factional strife of Beirut. They could also be based on amphibious vessels, sending in small units for short tours of duty to maintain a visible presence.

A Pentagon spokesman yesterday said there was no question of withdrawing the Marines altogether. There are almost 2,000 in Beirut as part of the multinational peacekeeping force.

## Nato analyses nuclear chess game strategy

From Our Own Correspondent, Brussels

There was no great sense of surprise or excitement among Nato Foreign Ministers when they learnt of the way the Soviet Union had abruptly ended the strategic arms talks in Geneva.

"They have not walked out of the talks, they have simply not given a date when they will be resumed. They will be back." That is how British sources summed up the latest move by the Soviet Union in the diplomatic chess game over nuclear disarmament.

The ministers were meeting in Brussels for the Nato Council and the current state of East-West relations was top of the agenda for their long restricted session. Behind closed doors they were analysing the present Soviet strategy in the wake of the first deployment of cruise and Pershing 2 missiles in Europe, when news arrived from Geneva of the Soviet delegation's move.

The session authorized the publication of a 49-page document which tells the story from

Nato's point of view of the so-called INF talks on medium-range nuclear missiles, up to the time the Soviet Union withdrew from them last month. Publication of the document is part of Nato's attempt to improve its image with the peace movement and to prove it has an "open chair" policy in all negotiations.

Introducing the document Mr Richard Burt, the American chairman of the Nato contact group on the INF talks, revealed that the Soviet Union had just completed another SS20 missile, raising the number deployed to 369, with 1,107 warheads between them.

He said that the new site inside the Soviet Union and although it was in Asia. He summed up what had happened in the INF talks this way. "The United States pursued the negotiations while the Soviet Union deployed but the Soviet Union suspended its participation in the negotiations when the United States began to deploy."



Yesterday's men (from left): Galtieri, Lami Dozo, Videla and Massera.

From heroes to villains

## Junta limps off the stage

From Douglas Tweedale, Buenos Aires

The military Government which slipped out of power in Argentina this week had the tact to not open support of most Argentines when it overthrew President Maria Estela Peron in March 1976 and started a "process of national reorganization".

The Peronist administration had been a shadow of its former self. Most breathed a sigh of relief when the three-man junta which had seized power stated its objectives: to end corruption, to strengthen the economy and to end terrorism. Seven years and four military juntas later, the "process" is in full retreat. Five of the 12 officers who were in the junta at one time or another are on trial, countless other officers have been charged with corruption, the economy is groaning under an unpayable \$40bn (£27bn) foreign debt and inflation is

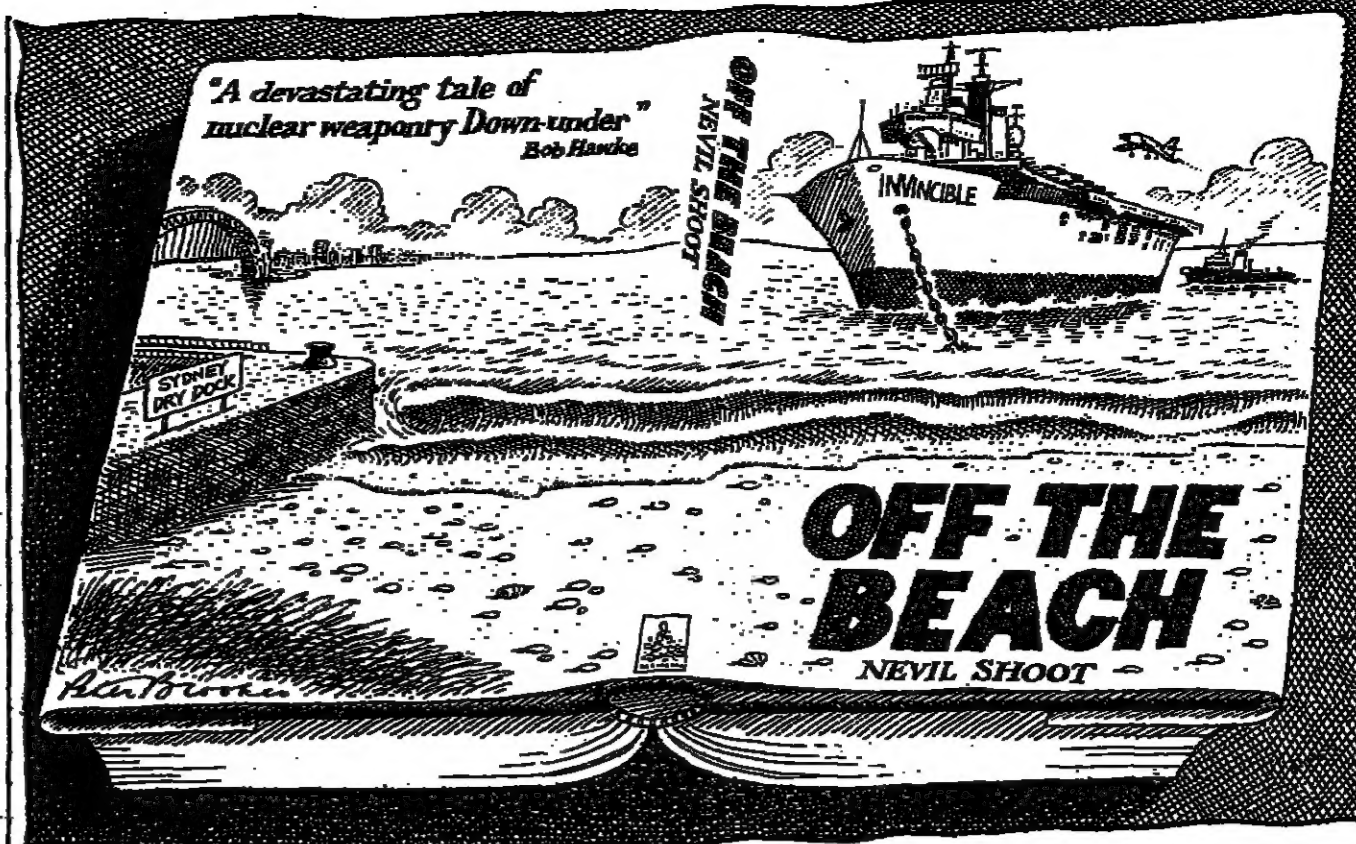
more than 400 per cent. In addition, the military is accused of atrocities in its fight against terrorism. Señora Peron, who was tried by the military and kept under house arrest for five years, is expected to return from exile today to find two of the three officers who ousted her in somewhat different circumstances.

General Jorge Videla, a member of the first junta and the only president of the "process" to complete his self-imposed term, is being sued by a leading Peronist politician, accused of abuse of power.

The former navy commander, Admiral Emilio Massera, who cultivated an image as the most daring and charismatic member of the 1976 junta, has become the first to be jailed for his role in one of more than 7,000 "disappearances"

which occurred after the coup. Also on trial are the members of the junta which ordered the invasion of the Falkland Islands last year. A military commission which investigated the conflict ruled that President Leopoldo Galtieri, the former navy commander, Admiral Jorge Anaya and the former air force chief, Brigadier-General Basilio Lami Dozo, should be held responsible for leading the country into a war for which it was not prepared.

General Galtieri, who had hopes of using a victory in the Falklands to launch his own political career, is accused of crimes during the conflict, which carry the death penalty. Admiral Anaya faces a similar sentence and General Lami Dozo could receive life imprisonment if convicted in the court-martial now under way.



## Sydney turns away damaged Invincible

From Tony Dubondin, Melbourne

The Australian Government has denied the British aircraft carrier HMS *Invincible* access to the Royal Australian Navy Dockyard at Garden Island in Sydney harbour because it

refused to confirm or deny whether it was carrying nuclear weapons.

*Invincible* had been engaged in exercises with elements of the Royal Australian Navy and developed a vibration problem in its starboard propeller.

The official version from the British side on the incident was that *Invincible* would not be using the dockyard for "operational reasons".

*Invincible* is now moored off Woolloomooloo in a bay near the naval dockyard. Yesterday

British naval divers were seen going down to inspect the propeller.

Mr Gordon Scholes, the Defence Minister, said it was Australian Government policy not to allow nuclear arms on Australian soil.



Balled out: Belgian referee Alfons Ponnet and riot police sprinting from the field in Milan under a hail of stones hurled by the angry crowd whose team, Internazionale, had just lost 2-3 in a UEFA Cup match with Austria Vienna.

## Russia goes to brink on Olympics

After a week in California, the Russians still refuse to say for sure whether they are definitely coming to the July, 1984, Olympic Games. Marat Gramov, the Soviet Sports Minister and chairman of the National Olympic Committee, revealed that the Russians will leave it to the last possible legal minute to decide - about May 28, or two months before the Games are due to start. Mr Gramov said: "We do not see any reasons why the Soviet team would stay away from the Games."

## Australia to ditch Queen but not God

From Our Correspondent, Melbourne

There may be no place for the Queen in the proposed oath of allegiance for intending new Australian citizens, but there is still a place for God.

A move on Tuesday in the parliamentary caucus of the ruling Labour Party to allow people seeking citizenship to make a pledge rather than an oath was soundly defeated. The caucus opted instead to offer a choice of pledge or oath.

Under amendments to Australian Citizenship Act, introduced into the Federal Parliament on Wednesday night, reference to the Queen will be deleted, the qualifying period for citizenship reduced from three years' residence in the previous five, a right of appeal established, the English-language requirement eased, and British subject status scrapped.

The amendments were outlined by Mr Stewart West, Minister for Immigration, in October. They will not come into force until next year.

In the caucus debate on the question of an oath, or pledge, Mr West recommended that a pledge only be allowed, but he faced stiff opposition. Mr Bob Hawke, the Prime Minister, indicated that he supported retention of the oath. Mr Hawke is the son of a clergyman, though he is now a professed agnostic.

The main thrust of the Citizenship Act is to confirm an Australian identity. Mr West said that abolition of the reference to the Queen was designed to end concern felt by many people at swearing allegiance to an overseas sovereign.

He said that the decision was taken after consultations begun by the previous Government and was designed to reflect that Australia was an independent nation. The new "pledge of Australian citizenship", in both pledge and oath forms, calls for renouncing citizenship and allegiance to any state other than Australia.

## Human rights mothers look to Alfonsin

From Our Correspondent, Buenos Aires

Relatives of more than 7,000 Argentines who have disappeared under military rule gathered yesterday for the last human rights demonstration before Señor Raúl Alfonsín takes office as president.

The march was organized by the mothers of Plaza de Mayo, a group of women who have staged a weekly demonstration in front of Government House to demand information about their missing children from the military government.

One of the mothers said yesterday: "Next Thursday we will demonstrate under President Alfonsín. We are confident that under a civilian government the courts will begin acting properly."

Human rights groups have documented more than 7,000 cases of people who disappeared after being kidnapped by government security forces and secret death squads.

## UN seeks assurance on E African refugees

From Charles Harrison, Nairobi

The United Nations and some Western states are pressing Kenya and Tanzania for assurances on the status of political refugees, following the recent forcible repatriation of some nationals of both countries.

Two officials of the UN High Commission for Refugees yesterday completed visits to both countries, during which they expressed concern about the effect of a recent agreement that fugitive offenders will not be given asylum in another East African country.

Their visit follows reports here that the two self-confessed leaders of last year's Kenya coup attempt, who were granted political asylum in Tanzania, have been handed back to Kenya. They are Air Force private Huzekiah Ochuka and Sergeant Francis Okumu.

## Two Britons disappear in Paris

From Our Correspondent, Paris

Paris - The British Embassy last night confirmed the disappearance of two British businessmen in Paris in the past week but said it had no information about the circumstances (Diana Geddes writes). Both were last seen on December 1 and were reported missing by their wives.

Mr Niall Campbell, aged 42, an ICI economic forecaster from Harrowgate, left his papers and belongings in the Hotel Vernet.

Mr Robert Graham, aged 27, an accountant from London, left all his belongings at the Hotel Athens.

There is no party political advantage to be derived from attacking Mrs Thatcher for the line she took in Brussels. The moment when she might become politically vulnerable will be if she makes concessions in order to do a deal. The best tactics for Mr Kinnock would have been to congratulate her on her stand at Athens and to seek assurance that she would not in future deviate by one inch from the position she adopted there. He should have tried to tie her ankles with his felicitations.

## Commentary

Geoffrey Smith

The most telling moment when Mrs Thatcher made her statement to the House of Commons on Wednesday came when Mr Geoffrey Rippon agreed emphatically with the stand she had taken. The man who negotiated British entry to the Community more than 10 years ago was accepting the policy which some people believe might take Britain out again.

It was a measure of the broad support that Mrs Thatcher enjoys on this issue, not just across party lines but also across the more significant division between European enthusiasts and critics. Dr Owen was unequivocal in the backing he offered on behalf of the SDP. The only important dissentient was Mr Kinnock, who misjudged not only the mood of the House of Commons but also the tactical situation.

There is no party political advantage to be derived from attacking Mrs Thatcher for the line she took in Brussels. The moment when she might become politically vulnerable will be if she makes concessions in order to do a deal. The best tactics for Mr Kinnock would have been to congratulate her on her stand at Athens and to seek assurance that she would not in future deviate by one inch from the position she adopted there. He should have tried to tie her ankles with his felicitations.

The breadth of Mrs Thatcher's political support on this question comes partly from a recognition of British public opinion prudent politicians. But it comes even more from an appreciation that the Community will have to be changed if Britain is not to be perpetually in conflict with its partners. Ardent Europeans like Mr Rippon are not waiting to break up the community. They believe on the contrary, that reforms necessary for its future success.

## Double advantage for Britain

If present trends were allowed to continue unchecked, Britain would in due course be bled white. The accession of Spain and Portugal, both relatively poor countries, with large farming sectors, will considerably increase the burden on the Community Budget. That need not necessarily raise the cost to Britain. There are more than compensating savings that could be made in the common agricultural policy, most obviously in the financing of milk production.

But if the pressures on Britain are great, so are they on other members of the Community. It will not be possible for them to meet Britain's requirements without serious political embarrassment. In France, for example, there has for some years been an awareness of the intellectual case for reforming the CAP. But an intellectual awareness is not the same as a political willingness. It is rather the attitude of St Augustine when he prayed: "Let me be chaste, O Lord but not yet."

The appeal of chastity may become somewhat greater if the alternative is seen to be death. The collapse of the CAP would be even more painful than its modification for those countries with large farming sectors. They need a settlement even more than Britain.

Nonetheless, it requires political courage for any political leader to act on his country's long-term interests rather than his own short-term convenience. So one cannot take it for granted that the impasse is bound to be resolved.

In these circumstances Britain has a double advantage. The British people showed in the general election campaign that they would prefer to remain in the Community. But they have no sentimental attachment to it.

The second advantage is one of timing. Britain can afford to wait while the pressures mount on the other members. Mrs Thatcher remarked significantly in the House of Commons on Wednesday: "The European Community is not in default with us on its obligations. Were it to default on its obligations, then we would have to take steps to safeguard our position."

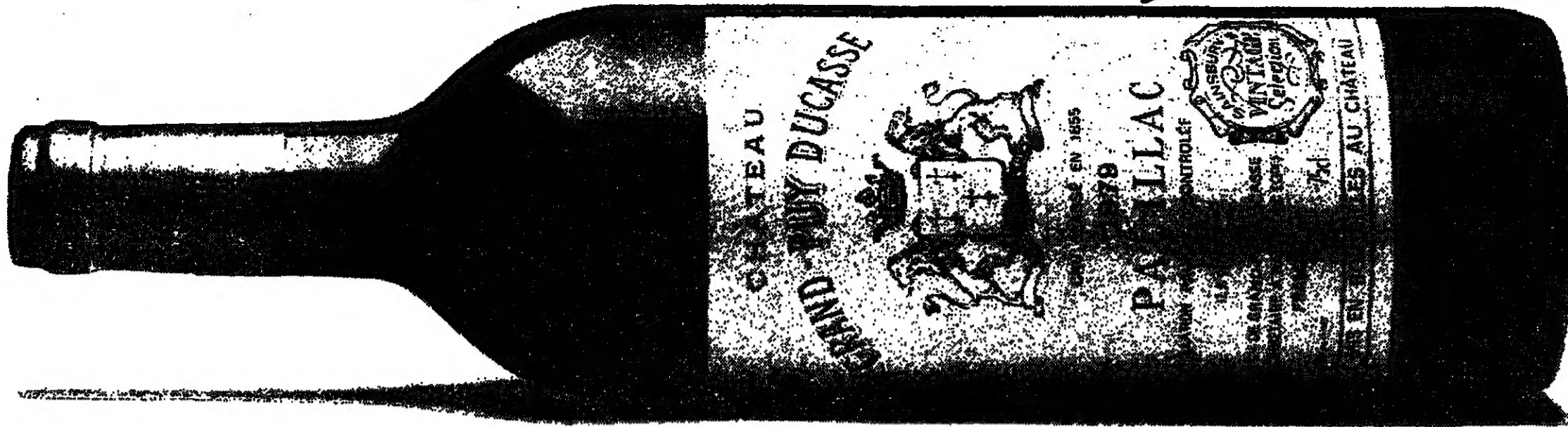
This suggests that Britain will do nothing until the Community's money begins to run out. Then the EEC would be forced to reduce its agricultural payments and individual governments would start to make up the difference. At that point, the British Government could claim that the Community was no longer fulfilling its obligations, that the basis of competition had been changed, and that Britain would therefore be justified in withholding its contributions.



# Sainsbury's Vintage Selection.

## It reads like the wine list in a good restaurant.

## Until you come to the prices.



If you're a wine buff who's been buffeted by rising prices you'll welcome our Vintage Selection.

You'll find the quality familiar and the prices, quite often, nostalgic.

All thirty-one wines have been tasted and tested by our wine buyers, who have been working, if you can call it work on this selection for 18 months. (Over 600 wines were considered.)

All of the wines are ready to drink now though some are suitable for laying down.

Many of them come with established reputations like the Puligny Montrachet or Château Grand Puy Ducasse.

Some are more unusual like the delicious dessert wine Moulin Touchais from the Loire – or our dry red wine from Portugal called Quinta Da Bacalhóa.

Many are virtually exclusive to Sainsbury's and all bear our Vintage Seal on the label.

You'll find the complete list in 60 of our largest stores and a further 160 stores will carry a good selection. (If you discover some wines not on this list, don't worry; we're constantly adding to our selection and all the wines have been vetted.)

We hope you'll enjoy reading about the wines below and that you'll be tempted to turn a wine list into something even more satisfying.

### A shopping list.

1. Château Grand Puy Ducasse 1979 Pauillac. A classic Claret from one of the most important communes in the Médoc. Full bodied with good fruit and tannin this wine will develop over the next three or four years into a fine wine of distinction. £7.45.

2. Château Jean-Fauré 1979 Grand Cru St. Émilion. Like all St. Émilions this wine will drink younger than the great growth clarets and is already soft and fruity. The 1979 is delightfully drinkable and offers, along with elegant medium weight, a bouquet with a hint of violets. £5.45.



3. Château de Poncie 1981 Fleurie. The true charm and distinction of one of the most delicate of the Beaujolais. Granite soil and the Gamay grape have combined in one of the more southerly Beaujolais Villages to produce a wine which is soft, fruity and delicately perfumed. Superb with cold meats or cheese – but many would say with anything. £4.35.

4. Château Tourneau Choller 1980 Graves. Graves, a huge area of wine production to the south of Bordeaux is famed for its rich, slightly spicy red wines. Small proprietors abound in the area, producing wines which are firm when young and pay for keeping. Here is a pleasant fruity example of medium weight which will go happily with most meats or cheese. £3.60.

5. Château du Bousquet 1981 Côtes de Bourg. Less well known than the Médocs which lie opposite, the wines of the Côtes de Bourg offer excellent value for money. The best of the slopes, near the river, include the vines from which this splendid example is formed. Although it will keep, it can be enjoyed now. £3.20.

6. Gevrey Chambertin 1978. Amongst the richest and most enduring of all the great Burgundies, this full-bodied and powerful wine, from the celebrated village on the slopes of the Côte de Nuits, will be enjoyed with the richer meats. £8.95.

7. Côte de Brouilly 1982. Produced on the granite soil of the most northerly of the nine nominated 'cru' villages which produce the best of the Beaujolais. Côte de Brouilly is fruity and fresh. £3.45.

8. Domaine André Brunel 1980 – Châteauneuf du Pape. Châteauneuf du Pape is recognised the world over as the finest of the southern Rhônes. Dark, strong and long-lived. This is a fine example from the rocky vineyard of one of the leading growers and two or three years more bottle age will improve it. £4.95.

9. Gigondas 1981. Like its more famous neighbour Châteauneuf du Pape, Gigondas is a deep, hearty, robust red wine, taking its character from the Grenache grapes which predominate in the blend. It will hold its own with game, roasts, casseroles and all cheese dishes. £4.35.

10. Château la Borie – Rhône 1982. This is the product of a vineyard which was totally replanted 20 years ago. (It has grown in reputation as a result.) The presence of Syrah and Grenache in the blend gives the slight peppery sensation on the palate which is so characteristic of a Rhône wine. £2.99.



11. Château Barreyres 1979 Haut-Médoc. The Médoc, on the west bank of the river, is the most important red wine district of Bordeaux. Here, from just north of the Margaux, is an excellent fruity claret of medium weight, which has been made with great care and would even improve with a few years bottle age. £3.55.

12. Domaine du Colombier 1982 Chinon. Though less well-known there are some fine fresh light reds from the gravel soils of the Loire. This one has a distinct fruitiness and pleasant acidity. It is best drunk young and will happily accept a degree of chilling. £3.75.

13. Château de Gougazaud 1980 or 1982 – Minervois. From the hilly country of the Languedoc-Roussillon but with more of the Cabernet Sauvignon grape than is usual. This makes for a distinctive medium-bodied wine of charm – robust enough for most meats and cheeses. £4.99. (Magnum)

14. Clos de La Mouchère 1980 or 1981 – Puligny Montrachet. Another great classic dry French white wine. Produced to the north of Meursault and lacking some of its softness it is, perhaps, the ultimate accompaniment to oysters but enhances any fish or white meat. £8.45.

15. Domaine De La Bizolière 1982 Savennières. The white Anjou wines to the western end of the Loire Valley are characteristically dry and full bodied – some say with the crispness of new apples. Here is a fine example, best drunk young and served chilled, it is slightly flowery with good acidity. £3.60.

16. Sancerre Les Perriers 1982. This was a good year in the Loire, where the Sauvignon grapes grown on limestone produce elegant, dry white wines. This fresh and fruity wine from Verdigny Commune is best drunk young and slightly chilled. £4.65.



17. Meursault Moillard 1980. Meursault's Pinot Chardonnay grapes provide some of the world's great white wines. Rich, smooth and dry; but mellow. This is a fine example, soft and full, which will mature and improve for two or three years. £6.95.

18. Moulin Touchais 1964 – Anjou. The valley of the Loire shelters the Chenin Blanc vines from which are made some exceptional white wines. In the limestone 'caves' at Doué la Fontaine lies a huge selection of some of France's best kept wine secrets. Moulin Touchais is one. The perfect dessert wine with plenty of fruit and a balanced sweetness best revealed when chilled. £5.75.

19. Château Tertre du Moulin 1982 Entre-deux-Mers. Between the 'two seas' of the Dordogne and the Garonne lies a vast area of wine production. The whites of this area are allowed the 'appellation'. Here is a crisp, fruity dry white wine from a grower with an established reputation for consistent quality. £2.75.

20. Clos St. Georges 1981 Graves Supérieures. Long before Graves was known for the red wines with which it is now most associated, it had a high reputation for sweet white wines. Clos St. Georges is found on the borders of Barsac. It has depth, style and length, which come through impressively on the palate. £2.99.

21. Château de Beaulieu 1980 Coteaux Du Layon. Beaulieu is one of only six communes in this sheltered area to the south of the Loire to be granted the 'appellation'. This is an exceptional medium sweet white wine with lots of fruit and an acidity of considerable length which give it great style and depth. At its best lightly chilled with fresh fruit. £2.80.

22. Muscat de Beaumes-de-Venise. This is a naturally sweet white wine from the southern end of the Rhône Valley. The sun has ample time to develop the sugar and add a delicate perfume and flavour. A dessert wine of great distinction. £4.25.

23. Chablis Premier Cru 1981 or 1982. One of the best known dry white wines of France from the small area of Chablis some 100 miles south east of Paris. Only the finer vineyards are designated Premier Cru. A classic wine ideal with white meat or fish. £4.35.

24. Château des Bidaudières Vouvray 1982. The Chenin Blanc grapes growing around this small village near Tours in the Loire Valley produce a medium dry white wine with good fruit and acidity. This wine will also improve on keeping. £3.45.

25. Uerziger Würzgarten Auslese 1975 or 1976 Moselle. The Riesling wines of Würzgarten are sheltered by mountains and this fragrant and spicy sweet wine is produced from selected (auslese) grapes. Serve chilled with desserts or as a special aperitif. £5.99.



26. Domaine De La Bretonnerie 1982, Muscadet De Sèvre et Maine Sur Lie. This Muscadet is named after two of the Loire's great tributaries. It has the added fruitiness which results from the grapes remaining longer on the lees ('sur lie'). Ideal with fish – especially shellfish. A light, dry and refreshing white wine. £2.99.

27. Kiedricher Heiligenstock Kabinett 1982 Rheingau. From the pride of Germany's wineland come some splendid white wines. This one is no exception. Elegant and well-balanced it is a distinguished accompaniment to most white meat and fish. £4.20.

28. Deidesheimer Hengertsacker Kabinett 1981 or 1982 Rheingau. Wines from the Palatinate are rich, well flavoured, and lively and Deidesheimer is regarded as one of the best villages. This is a light medium dry white wine and versatile enough for fish, poultry or a chilled aperitif. £4.10.

29. Apertoner Gewürztraminer Beerenauslese 1981 or 1982. Specially selected and overripe grapes from the Gewürztraminer vines at Aperton in the Burgenland of Austria, produce a wine of concentrated sweetness and depth to compare with the best of the Sauternes. Lightly chilled, it's superb with fruit or dessert. £4.95.

30. Amatore Pasqua 1978. This is a Recioto della Valpolicella – not to be confused with the more popular wine of the latter name. Only the grapes from the 'ears' of the vine which have begun to dry in the sun are used. The result is an impressive dry red wine of high quality and full flavour. £3.95.

31. Quinta da Bacalhóa 1981. Portuguese red wines have been a rather well-kept secret for too long. This one produced from Cabernet Sauvignon grapes, matured in chestnut casks, is similar to a dry red Bordeaux. Like all Portuguese reds, it will improve with keeping. £3.65.

**Good wine costs less at Sainsbury's.**



# Democrats hope to beat Reagan with help of recession-hit blacks

From Nicholas Ashford, Washington

The main significance of the Rev Jesse Jackson's decision to seek the Democratic presidential nomination lies not in the number of votes he will get at next year's party convention but in the fact that he is the first black candidate in the history of the party to be elected to the position of national chairman.

Mr. Jackson is, in effect, riding the crest of a new political awakening among America's 27 million blacks. This year, during the Carter Administration but has accelerated rapidly since President Reagan came to office.

The reason for this is fairly simple. Despite the advances achieved during the civil rights campaign of the 1960s, blacks remain significantly worse off than whites. Unemployment among blacks is double that of whites and their average income is half.

Whatever gains they made under President Carter, they believe these have been largely lost during the past three years. Many blacks feel the Reagan Administration is unsympathetic to their interests and that they have been forced to bear the brunt of its cutbacks in social spending.

The first tangible evidence of this black political renaissance appeared during the 1982 congressional elections, when black voting participation increased by 6 per cent over the previous off-year election.

This rise in turnout was the direct result of a black voter registration drive which has been under way for three years. Between 1980 and 1982, an additional 573,000 blacks have gone on the rolls. More than 600,000 others have been added since the summer of 1982 and their numbers are increasing by thousands a week.



Mr. Jackson: Harvesting black resentment

According to the Joint Centre for Political Studies in Washington, black voter registration now stands at about 10.5 million. In total, there are 17.6 million blacks of voting age, most of them concentrated in the South and the industrial areas of the North.

Mr. Jackson has said he hopes five million more blacks will have registered as voters by next November's presidential election. Although his expectations may be over-optimistic, political observers believe an increase of two million would not be unreasonable.

As for the overwhelming majority of blacks voting for the Democratic Party, as an increase on the scale could tip the balance in 11 states which were captured by Mr. Reagan in 1980 (Alabama, Arkansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Mississippi, New York, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee and Virginia).

For instance, in Arkansas Mr. Reagan beat Mr. Carter by only just over 6,000 votes, yet there were some 85,000 unregistered blacks in the state. Similarly in New York, Mr. Reagan's margin of victory was only 145,000 and yet the number of unregistered blacks amounted to almost a million.

The impact which increased registration can have has been demonstrated in a number of mayoral races this year, notably in Chicago, where black turnout increased by 120,000, and Philadelphia, where it went up by about 100,000. Both cities elected black mayors for the first time in their history.

Some 240 American cities now have black mayors. They include four of the country's six biggest cities. Although Mr. Jackson's bid for the Democratic nomination is the most visible expression of this new mood of black assertiveness, black political leaders are beginning to make use of their growing numerical strength to expand their presence in the House of Representatives, which stands at 60 at present, and in state legislatures, which now have about 340.

They also believe they can help to defeat such notable right-wingers as Senator Jesse Helms of North Carolina, and Senator Strom Thurmond of South Carolina, as well as a number of Southern conservative Democrats known as "boll weevils", who enabled President Reagan to get his controversial economic programme approved by Congress.

The main question that remains to be answered is whether blacks will vote in such large numbers as now being predicted if, as seems certain, Mr. Jackson loses the Democratic nomination. A number of black leaders, originally opposed to Mr. Jackson's candidature, believe blacks will unite behind any Democrat who has a chance of getting Mr. Reagan out of the White House.

It is this black enthusiasm which Mr. Jackson regards as his greatest strength. He believes that the black vote will be the decisive factor in the 1984 election.

## Rapist says yes to castration sentence

From Trevor Fishlock, New York

One of three men convicted of rape and told by a judge to choose between 30 years in prison and castration says he would prefer the latter.

"Either way, I'm destroyed," Roscoe Brown, aged 27, said. "But to be isolated and not able to contribute to the world would be more damaging to me than castration. A 30-year sentence would do nothing to rehabilitate me."

The extraordinary choice offered to the three men by Judge Victor Fyle at Anderson, South Carolina, has started a controversy. The judge has been strongly criticised and warmly applauded. He passed sentence after hearing what he called the most brutal case of his experience. The three men pleaded guilty to raping and torturing a woman of 23.

The men's lawyers have called the sentence "barbaric" and are appealing to South Carolina's Supreme Court. Judge Fyle, who has defended his companies in return for tax concessions, said the men had "deserved" castration.

Brown, who is married with two children, said reporters who talked to him in his prison cell that he had chosen castration because of his fear of a long jail term. Another of the men said he would probably choose castration and the third said he would probably opt for prison because he wanted to have children.

The idea of castrating rapists clearly has an emotional appeal, but it has been attacked on a number of grounds. Many people object that castration is a violent act, that it is a crime of violence rather than sex, that castration would not make them less violent and that it would not necessarily make them incapable of raping again.

The State of the World's Children 1984 is available from Oxford University Press in a variety of editions, or from the UK Committee for UNICEF, 33 UNE.

Mr. Ruben said the Kremlin had banished Dr Sakharov to Gorky out of "human considerations" to ensure his "peace of mind". He was writing research papers for publication in Russia and America, and was "constantly in touch with fellow physicists".

Soviet doctors were "taking all necessary measures" to restore Dr Sakharov's health, and were treating him at home, Mr Ruben said. The authorities had acted with the necessary tact.



Kidnap victim: Hooded guerrillas guarding Señor Jaime Betancur, brother of the President of Colombia, at a press conference before releasing him. They kidnapped him a fortnight ago.

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## Harmony in talks on Hongkong

From David Bonavia, Hongkong

The Anglo-Chinese talks on the future of Hongkong here continued yesterday on a note of harmony which contrasted with the anti-British propaganda of "China" that accompanied some earlier sessions.

A joint statement in Peking said that the 15-month-old negotiations "reviewed the progress made so far". It demanded that a general framework of agreement be reached by September next year, and a Chinese spokesman said on Wednesday that any "turnout" in Hongkong would result in the territory's being reoccupied by China before the accepted 1997 deadline.

The British delegation was headed this week for the last time by Sir Percy Cradock, the Ambassador, who is returning to London soon. At the next session in January the senior British negotiator will be Mr. Richard Evans.

Sir Edward Youde, Governor of Hongkong, who also attends the talks, is considered by the Chinese side to be merely a member of the British delegation, with special authority to speak for the people of Hongkong.

China has promised that Hongkong will retain its autonomy after 1997 and remain a capitalist system and way of life - according to some reports, for 50 years.

Many well-to-do and qualified people are already leaving or making plans to leave abroad, taking their capital with them. The territory's economy has recovered somewhat since the devaluation of the dollar last September.

Jardine's, Hongkong's most famous old trading company, has announced it will not sponsor the fireworks display usually held on the Chinese New Year, because of the depressed economic climate.

## Lambsdorff charged with corruption

From Michael Blyden, Bonn

Otto Graf Lambsdorff, the Minister of Economics, was yesterday charged formally with corruption. The Bonn public prosecutor accused him in the district court of accepting DM155,000 (about £34,000) from the Flick Group of companies in return for tax concessions.

The prosecutor announced 10 days ago that he would bring charges against the coast and four others named in the affair, but was unable to do so until parliament lifted the minister's immunity. Count Lambsdorff was among those members of the Bundestag who voted to do so last week.

The indictment has still not been served on the count by yesterday evening. While maintaining his innocence, he has refused to make any statement about his future until reading the charges, which he is expected to receive today, but Chancellor Helmut Kohl has said the count would remain in the case came to trial.

The inquiry by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) has concluded that a computer programming error probably started the chain of events that led to the destruction of Korean Airlines Flight 007 over Soviet territory on September 1.

All 269 people on board the jetliner flying from Anchorage, Alaska, to Seoul died when it was shot down by the Russians. The inquiry set up despite Soviet objections in the wake of the disaster, found that a navigational computer was "probably programmed incorrectly, according to a CBC news report from Montreal.

ICAO experts in Montreal, where the organization has its headquarters, said that an error in placing coordinates could have led to the airliner following a more easterly course across the Pacific than it should have followed.

You have to make the assumption that the crew wasn't paying much attention," an ICAO source is quoted as saying. ICAO withheld comment on that point, saying the official said that navigational error had been considered from the beginning the "most plausible explanation" of why the plane was off course.

## Britain takes UN to task on rights

From Zuzanna Tyszkiewicz, New York

Countries which violate human rights must be censured irrespective of their political leanings, Britain has urged the United Nations.

Mr. John Margeson, the British representative to the Human Rights Committee of the General Assembly, said that double standards and hypocrisy were unacceptable.

In the past, atrocities in Poland, Cambodia and Sri Lanka's Uganda had been overlooked. Now only violations in El Salvador, Guatemala and Chile were being considered.

Many delegations, particularly those from Western Europe, share the discontent over selectivity, but they feel that pressure should not be cast from right-wing Latin America simply for the sake of evenhandedness.

The Swedish representative, Mr. Anders Fern, asked whether the kings of Cambodia and Laos should go unpunished because of misgovernment, or whether human rights violations in the Soviet Union or whether the Assembly should refrain from passing resolutions on El Salvador because the Assembly would not deal with the situation in Iran.

"Much as we object to the selective approach, would we refuse to help a drowning person because two others are drowning beyond our reach?"

The principal remaining targets for Korea in the Third World, but "the countries of the Third World are getting a bit tired of hearing the Koreans talking incessantly about two things, trade and North Korea, when many of them see the disparity with the North as a purely internal Korean question," one Western diplomat said.

Some of the opposition in Seoul even believe that President Chun Doo-hwan is the biggest command in the world, 100,000 strong, to back him.

## Bangladesh bid to cut down the Russians

From Michael Hamby, Dhaka

Diplomats in Dhaka are watching with interest the outcome of the Bangladesh attempt to cut the Soviet mission to size.

"It is the biggest anti-Soviet step that any non-aligned country has ever made," said one Western envoy. "A number of other non-aligned countries might say 'We've been waiting for a long time' if the Bangladesh Government can accomplish it."

There appears to be clear evidence that the Russians have been behaving badly in the country. Their embassy with 38 diplomats and nearly 90 non-diplomatic Russian staff is by far the largest in the capital, and there is very little by way of trade or aid which could fully occupy such a number.

Dual newspapers claim that demonstrators who turned a peaceful sit-down strike outside the government secretariat building on November 28 into a full-blooded riot were in Soviet pay. Soviet officials said they were found with Russian cigarettes in their pockets, and Russian-owned vehicles are said to have been used to transport members of extremist opposition parties to this and other demonstrations.

This may be rather fanciful, but there seems little doubt that the martial law regime of Lieutenant General H. M. Ershad, had something more solid to go on, since next day it called in the Soviet Ambassador, Mr. Valentin Pavlovich Stepanov, to ask him to cut his diplomatic staff by 75 per cent and to close the Soviet cultural centre.

The government is also thought likely to have been angered by what is regarded as an arrogant disregard of Bangladesh's feelings which badly beat up an Afghan migrant doctor who was working at the International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease Research in Dhaka. He was highly outspoken about the evils of the intervention in his country.

On November 24 he was resigning his post after a "dinner" when he was trampled outside by a mob of students with diplomatic plates. Two European men got out of each, speaking in what Dr. Samad said was Russian, and he was badly hurt, damaging his teeth and breaking his arm.

Dr. Samad has since been flown to America, but the incident was reported to the police, and in the press.

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## Russians claim Sakharov is mad

From Richard Owen, Moscow

A Soviet official hinted yesterday that the dissident physicist and human rights campaigner, Dr. Andrei Sakharov, was mentally ill, and that his views on nuclear disarmament proved he was deranged.

Mr. Vitaly Ruben, a senior Supreme Soviet official, described Dr. Sakharov as a "sick person". Dr. Sakharov was expelled from Moscow in 1980 for his human rights activities. Mr. Ruben claimed Dr. Sakharov had sent a letter to the United States "urging the American administration to make a nuclear strike at the Soviet Union". In doing so he had called for nuclear catastrophe, Mr. Ruben remarked, adding: "A healthy person does not do such things."

Dr. Sakharov, the "father" of the Soviet hydrogen bomb, is well known for his achievements in nuclear weapons. He has been avoided by the authorities through nuclear secrecy.

He lives in isolation in Gorky, and is in poor health. He has almost no contact with fellow scientists. Mrs. Sakharov has complained that he is not allowed access to the Academy of Sciences hospital in Moscow.

Mr. Ruben said the Kremlin had banished Dr. Sakharov to Gorky out of "human considerations" to ensure his "peace of mind". He was writing research papers for publication in Russia and America, and was "constantly in touch with fellow physicists".

Soviet doctors were "taking all necessary measures" to restore Dr. Sakharov's health, and were treating him at home, Mr. Ruben said. The authorities had acted with the necessary tact.

## Computer error blamed in Korean jet disaster

From John Best, Ottawa

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The report of the inquiry board, which is made up of ICAO specialists, will be debated by the Council of the organization on Monday. No decision has been made as to whether or when it will be made public.

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## Bihar refugees given hope of resettlement

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## Cheap ways to avoid 15 million baby toll

By Tony Samways

About 15 million children, the equivalent of the entire under-five population of the United States, or of Britain, Italy, Spain and West Germany combined, have died in the past year, although a number of low-cost programmes could cut that death rate by half, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) said yesterday.

Launching its report on The State of the World's Children 1984, the agency noted that an equal number of young children in the developing world were left physically or mentally handicapped by disease, malnutrition. The report, which analyses child mortality and life expectancy figures from 130 countries, draws on studies from 20 of the poorest, which suggest that "despite gains in child health care, the world is still a very dangerous place for children."

## Belgrade accuses Sofia of meddling

From Dossa Trevisan, Belgrade

The one per cent increase in the defence spending next year because of the unstable situation in Albania and the climate of suspicion generated by the superpowers.

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# CONTRARY TO ANY PREVIOUS ADVICE, THERE ARE ONE OR TWO THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT A WINE.


- 1 Do you know that the Muscadet vineyards are the only ones in Brittany to be classified by the Appellation Contrôlée authorities?
- 2 Are you aware that the grape variety grown in this area is the Melon de Bourgogne, which has been re-baptised as the Muscadet?
- 3 Do you know that it was the monks in the seventeenth century who first brought vines to this area of France?
- 4 Are you familiar with the three areas of the Loire valley: dry wines in the west (Muscadet) and the east (Sancerre) with the sweeter wines in the middle (Anjou)?
- 5 Are you aware that traditionally Muscadet is the first region to be picked every year?
- 6 Do you realise that Muscadet is not only picked young, it is bottled young and is immediately ready for drinking?
- 7 Do you know Muscadet sur lie means bottled directly from the barrels where it has fermented on the lees?
- 8 Do you know that wines of 'sur lie' nature if raked, will oxidise and flatten?
- 9 Do you ensure that for chilled white wine the glasses are cold?
- 10 Are you aware that it's the natural carbon dioxide in a wine which is responsible for its freshness?
- 11 Do you realise that the different productions of separate communes are almost impossible to find as they are not classified in this area?
- 12 Are you aware that there are three

- distinct wine growing areas: Muscadet, Muscadet des Coteaux de la Loire and Muscadet de Sèvre-et-Maine?
- 13 Do you know it's the latter of these areas that is regarded as being the best?
- 14 Do you realise that altogether there are 22,500 acres of Muscadet grown near the mouth of the River Loire?
- 15 Do you know that Appellation Contrôlée not only guarantees the origin of Muscadet but also ensures that high standards are met?
- 16 Do you realise that the Appellation Contrôlée law sets a minimum alcohol level for all AC wines?
- 17 Do you know that Muscadet is one of the few French wines to have a recommended upper limit on its alcoholic strength, so it retains its freshness and fruity flavour?
- 18 When the French call a wine 'gouleyant' are you aware it means a light wine both in terms of taste and strength?
- 19 In the Loire the drier, lighter wines come from the areas with chalky soil, heavier wines from the areas of 'marl'. Did you realise this is because marl stores more heat?
- 20 Do you know that the finer a wine is, the more fragrance it will have?
- 21 Muscadet is the natural accompaniment to shellfish and seafood. Did you realise this is because it's grown close to the Atlantic?
- 22 Muscadet does not need to be decanted. Do you realise this is because it 'throws' little or no sediment?
- 23 The rule is that if Muscadet is to accompany a dish, it is the best wine to assist in the cooking. Are you aware of this?
- 24 Are you also aware that if you add wine during the cooking of a dish, it should always be heated first?
- 25 Do you also know that the finer a white wine the less its subtleties should be masked by cold?
- 26 When cooling a white wine, are you aware that one or two hours at most in a refrigerator is sufficient?
- 27 Do you know the rule that a Muscadet wine should not be served as cold as a Blanc de Blancs?
- 28 Are you aware that twenty minutes in a freezer is the maximum for a white wine?
- 29 Do you realise that good white wines should never be chilled as rapidly as when in a freezer?
- 30 Do you appreciate that there is no need to wrap a Muscadet in a white napkin unless it's being served from an ice bucket?
- 31 Are you aware that iced water is more effective than ice cubes alone when cooling a wine?
- 32 Muscadet being a younger, lighter wine should be drunk before older heavier wines?
- 33 Do you know the rule that at an all white wine meal, one should start with the more subtle wines and then move on to the more aromatic ones?
- 34 When serving Muscadet, or other white wine do you always use glasses with a crystal bowl to show off the colour of the wine?
- 35 Are you aware that both natural sunlight and artificial light are harmful to wine in clear glass bottles?
- 36 Do you know that the ideal temperature for storing Muscadet and all white wines is 7-12 Centigrade?
- 37 Do you always dry wine glasses whilst they are still warm with a lint free cloth, preferably a linen one?
- 38 Do you always store your wine glasses upright so that air can circulate in the bowl and prevent them becoming tainted?
- 39 Do you always inspect the cork to ensure that it does not contain weed?
- 40 Do you like the crisp, dry flavour of Muscadet?
- 41 Do you like the price?

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# THE ARTS

## Theatre

### Scream of hatred

Sufficient  
Carbohydrate  
Hampstead

Announced as "Dennis Potter's first original stage play," this is an angry piece about five tourists being very rude to each other on a Greek island.

In the chaste confines of Tanya McCallin's villa set, the play begins as a messy Anglo-American dogfight over the future of a chain of British foodstuffs.

Two directors of the company are on holiday with their wives. Jack's family founded the store, then sold out to the Americans who now want to get rid of him as a lazy, obstructive, alcoholic.

The holiday has been arranged to give the American director, Eddie, a chance to get rid of Jack.

Hostilities get under way in the early morning sunshine, with Jack springing to the defence of hand-picked mushrooms and Eddie no less vigorously putting the case for bio-technology.

What the author thinks is quite clear: the English used to sell food; now the Americans are selling junk. As Jack is sitting tight on his contract and is clearly not going to undergo a Pauline conversion to fast food, matters are soon deadlocked.

Mr Potter turns his attention to the surrounding company, including young Clayton (Robert Graves), the son of Eddie's first marriage, who now observes his father clandestinely entwined with his co-director's wife.

This line of business also swiftly comes to a head, with Eddie and Elizabeth defiantly refusing to back, leaving Jack to give the abandoned Lucy a black eye while murmuring profuse English apologies.

The second act finds Eddie and Elizabeth sunning themselves on the terrace after their night pleasure and asking themselves "What's going to happen now?", a question the author may well have been asking himself.

No very conclusive answer arrives. Jack is discovered, in bad shape, after a night on the beach. Clayton keeps on arriving at embarrassing moments, and also goes off to nurse his wounded feelings in solitude.

Search parties come and Jack tries to punch Eddie's nose and the piece ends with Jack's surprise resignation from the firm and the cast staring their eyes for a distant freighter he claims to see on the horizon.

As Jack is played by Dinsdale Landen and Eddie by Nicky Henson you will have a good idea of how their relationship works. It is a duel between irony and brute force, with the crumbling Mr Landen running rings of scathingly articulate mockery around his monosyllabically vile adversary.

This way of turning the tables on life's actual victors is an ancient theatre game; and the only surprise here is that a writer of Mr Potter's quality should present such a crass portrait of the Ugly American and load him with dialogue consisting almost exclusively of clichés.

Mr Henson obliges by playing with the bogus sincerity of a cigarette voice-over, inviting demolition with every line. However, there is more to the piece than that. Besides its contrast between a sagging Britain and a thrusting

America, it also delivers a scream of hatred against a supposedly cannibalistic society; what people really want in their hamburgers is human flesh.

Finally, there is a religious dimension, embodied in Jack's vision of the ship which stands for original innocence and his sense of a lost mission. At the mention of a black freighter you think of Brecht's ominous vessel; but, no, it is Masfield's - and whether you can see it or not is Mr Potter's way of sorting out of sheep from the goats (to Eddie, of course, the horizon is blank). For those who can see it, it evidently has the effect of making the rest of the human race look like monsters.

Nancy Meckler's hygienic production succeeds in cooling atmosphere. The play is cast well up to the Hampstead standard; and if there is no very clear distinction between Jill Baker's Lucy and Jennifer Hilary's Elizabeth, they go through the motions of desire, jealousy, and derision with an astute control of the manoeuvres of sexual comedy.

Irving Wardle

## Fishing Arts Theatre

"If only she would get married," think Mum and Aunt May as Ingrid sits in the tower-block flat she shares with yet another man who beats her up.

This last play in the Arts' rewarding black playwrights' season places a vulnerable, perplexed, character between two ways of life. Her friend Jean, planning to give her man the push, is all for freedom and draining life's wine to the dregs. Her cousin in Manchester (mercifully unseen) is marrying a nice, non-smoking clerk, with her as bridesmaid in pink chiffon with off-white lace on cuffs, collar, and what Auntie calls "the upper chest". "Very nice," comments Jean through her teeth.

Apart from its black milieu, Paulette Randall's play covers partly familiar territory, but it brings humour and much tenderness to the anguish of a character who cannot do the expected thing yet finds choosing her own path painful.

It also constitutes an engaging plea that best friends are better than lovers. Ingrid and Jean know and love each other so well, have more fun together than with anyone else, finish each other's sentences, sometimes fight, but cannot stay angry for long.

Yvonne Giddens (Ingrid) tries desperately to dispose of a dead goldfish, suffers a hilariously fragile hangover, pathetically protests "Jean, he doesn't beat you every night"; even ebullient Ellen Thomas is furious and hurt to find that the man she was going to walk out on has walked out first.

We see them in plenty of crises, but at least they have each other. And the two matriarchs are wonderfully contrasted. Corinne Skinner-Carter makes a Mum of few words and much understanding, and Peggy Phango flowers startlingly after a few drinks from a tight-lipped disapproval into a joyful Bacchante.

Anthony Masters

## Opera

### Carmen Dominion Theatre

The Welsh National Opera's tarty, beleaguered carnival of a *Carmen* was much appreciated when it opened in Cardiff in May, but it seems to have run out of steam on the way to

London. Now Lucian Pintilie's production is not sharp enough to be a send-up, not important enough to be a tragedy and certainly not vivid enough to be any kind of a theatrical entertainment. With no disrespect to the Prince and Princess of Wales who were with us in the Dominion theatre, one must suggest that the will *Carmen* watchers on Wednesday night were at home with Peter Brook on Channel 4.

The Welsh and Romanians, meanwhile, were failing to live up to their own aim of astonishing, an aim implicit from the treatment of the prelude and the splendid irrelevance of using the fate music to accompany a tightrope act. The trouble is that once you have flung your midgets around a few times there are still three and a half acts to go.

Pintilie, very reasonably, finds it hard to take Micacela seriously, but unfortunately there is no purchase in pointing out the weakness of your material unless you do it in outrageously bad taste. A model village and a crucifix wheeled onto the stage were merely as feeble as Micacela herself, and they cruelly distracted one from the finest singing of the evening, coming from Helen Field in this role.

Jennifer Jones returned as Carmen, amused and dangerous, but not vocally flamboyant enough to usurp the stage as she should. This was a little surprising when she had such poor competition. Jacques Trussel as Don Jose and Henry Newman as Escamillo were nowhere in the running, and at times this unconvincing production began to look disastereously like a comment on their interpretations. Nothing, though, could destroy the splendour and excitement being engendered in the pit by Mark Ermler.

Paul Griffiths

## Harking back, falling down

Trading Places (15)  
Empire 2

Liquid Sky (18)  
ICA Cinema, Classic Chelsea

Ziggy Stardust and the Spiders from Mars (PG)  
Lumière

Biddy (U)  
Minema

House of Evil (18)  
Classic Oxford Street.

The most terrifying cinematic moment of 1983 occurred last weekend at the Dominion Theatre, London, when Victor Sjöström's silent classic *The Wind* (1928) approached its delicious climax. On screen, Lillian Gish staggered through the eye of a symbolic storm, surrounded by dust, swirling clouds and debris; in the orchestra pit, Carl Davis's percussion players threw up a wall of noise. Just when matters reached fever pitch, a flaming horse pounded through the sky, reducing Miss Gish's emotions (and those of the spectators) to smithereens. No one could ask for a greater instance of cinema's power to shake one's being.

Last week's presentation of *The Wind*, and Griffith's fragrant *Broken Blossoms*, not only dwarfed most of the other offerings at the London Film Festival, they made pygmies of the current commercial brood. John Landis's comedy, *Trading Places*, though, has been a huge commercial hit in the United States during its summer release. The film opens here close to Christmas partly because Christmas trees and Santa Claus feature among the props; but mostly, one suspects, because Hollywood has few light-hearted romps to hawk.

The material harks back to the vintage comedies of Capra, Preston Sturges and Gregory La Cava, where American society was purposefully laid out, dissected and lampooned. Here, we see two specimens on the slab: Louis Winthorpe III, a smug product of money and privilege (played by pudding-faced Dan Aykroyd), and Billy Ray Valentine, a resilient survivor of the urban jungle (Eddie Murphy, from the

thriller *48 HRS*). Two mischievous moguls, played with alacrity by veterans Ralph Bellamy and Don Ameche, choose to test the benefits of breeding by making the couple swap places. Winthorpe becomes a penniless outcast, touchingly ridiculous in garishly shabby clothes; Valentine revels in Winthorpe's house, Harvard tie, butler and brokerage job.

John Landis decorates this schematic tale with modest visual eloquence. His cameras catch the forlorn absurdity of a rain-swept Aykroyd staring through the window at his former colleagues; crisp editing isolates Murphy's sideways look as Bellamy pedantically explains the use of pork bellies in bacon. Performances, too, oil the script's wheels: Denholm Elliott raises a querulous eyebrow and utters "Egg nog?" as though comic British butlers had just been invented. The entire film, indeed, is an egg nog: it slips down parched throats easily enough, though the nutritional deficiencies should still be pointed out.

Timothy Harris and Herschel Weingrod's script toys with its situations rather than exploits them, and the verbal wit of their Hollywood models is nowhere approached. Truly, successful comedy needs discipline; *Trading Places* is so profligate that a train bearing the leading characters in disguise, New Year revellers and a caged ape is needlessly catapulted into the script, with no decent gaps for recompense.

"There's something strange going on here - I'm going to leave," mutters one of the bystanders in the outlandish *Liquid Sky*, made in New York by excited Russian émigrés. It may seem tempting to follow suit: the characters are the kind worth crossing a street to avoid; most of their words have four letters; the material, furthermore, hardly sustains 112 minutes. Yet *Liquid Sky* should not be brushed aside lightly. The bizarre production context alone earns the film a footnote in cinema history, and the blend of punk musical, punk fashion show and science-fiction parody exerts a definite exotic appeal.

In its time, the Russian experimental tradition has drawn open sustenance from American popular culture, jazz and silent screen slapstick were potent influences during the 1920s. But director Slava Tsukerman, cameraman Yuri Neyman and their partners are children of an older, colder Soviet era; with the lurid sheen of *Liquid Sky* they are clearly relishing forbidden fruit. New York's punk underworld is viewed with a cold but sharply observant eye; personal relationships are entirely destructive, yet the people look highly glamorous - multi-coloured mannequins daubed with Japanese delicacy.

## Cinema

The production team's alien status is ingeniously built into the plot. There is an alien visitor on the heroine's rooftop, embedding glass arrows in the heads of anyone experiencing orgasm; there is a German scientist glued to a telescope, sharpening his accent on lines like "The alien craft is about the size of a dinner plate". Viewed as a cock-eyed scientific documentary, the film's sluggishness suddenly becomes understandable: all telescope watchers must expect boredom.

Tsukerman's band were joined in the venture by the American punk dignitary Anne Carlisle; she co-wrote the script and plays two parts (one of them male) with haunting zombic aplomb. Her own New York apartment - a pleasure-dome of neon signs and mirrors - is also featured prominently on-screen; quite understandably, she moved elsewhere as soon as the production was over.

D. A. Pennebaker's David Bowie film *Ziggy Stardust and the Spiders from Mars* documents western taste from a more traditional angle: Bowie's last concert appearance as his character "Ziggy Stardust" is filmed with all the sophistication that a darkened Hammersmith Odeon allows. The footage was shot in 1973 as a video disc experiment for RCA; for this delayed theatrical release, Bowie re-mixed the music track (though imperfections remain). Pennebaker - director of the rock documentaries *Don't Look Back* and *Monterey Pop* - feels this is "more than just a concert film".

To the extent that Bowie's act crystallises crucial popular trends, he is correct. But future historians will have a frustrating time discerning Bowie's astonishing costumes beneath the film's grainy surface. The audience, perversely, comes across more clearly, through flashing shots of ecstatic faces and waving arms; they seem like denizens of the inferno.

*Biddy* is a British aberration, devised and directed by Christine Edzard at the Rotherhithe studios of Sands Films. The tale of a Victorian nursemaid poisoning old age utilises Edzard's flair for period accoutrements and whimsy (she was production designer and co-writer of *Tales of Beatrix Potter*); but hideously synchronised dialogue and an absence of dramatic thrust prove crippling handicaps.

The American horror piece *House of Evil*, written and directed by Mark Rosman, is ruined in turn by stunted imagination. Vicious mystery supposedly lurks in a college campus, but when machstick characters talk about "the old cemetery" and "the old garage" we know precisely what is before us: old rubbish.

Geoff Brown



Eddie Murphy begs from Don Ameche in *Trading Places*

## Dance



Consort Lessons, choreographed by David Bintley

## Ballet out of music

Royal Ballet  
Covent Garden

Two new ballets on the same evening, one by a choreographer and designer new to the Royal Opera House, one by a guest conductor tackling ballet for the first time; where do I start? Perhaps with the thought that both the ballets are plotless, the first works of any substance in this genre to be created for this branch of the Royal Ballet in well over three years, so they provide a welcome counterbalance in a repertoire heavily weighted with strong dramas and old classics.

Richard Alston's ballet, *Midsummer*, gained more from the new conductor, Howard Williams, to direct Michael Tippett's *Fantasia Concertante* on a theme of Corelli, written in 1953, right after *The Midsummer Marriage*, and having some links with that work. The Covent Garden strings played warmly for him.

Alston lives up to his claim, in Wednesday's interview on this page, to have drawn his ballet from the score. He achieves the feeling (helped by John Hubbard's backcloth with its abstraction of a rocky landscape) that the action takes place in the open air on a hot day. One consequence of that is a general impression of a gentle, unassertive quality to the dancers.

That is in fact true of the greater part of the choreography. Page that starts the ballet to the duet for Bryony Brind and Jonathan Cope that comes near the end. That couple, both long-limbed, achieve an attractive, almost gawky grace together, which might suggest a metaphor for young people learning how to relate to each other.

There are plenty of crisper passages, notably a duet for the male dancers and a daring entry for Brind and the other woman soloist, Fiona Chadwick. Also, Alston (like David Bintley in the other new work) makes his cast use the whole stage more freely and broadly than they often do. On the other hand, I wonder whether the solid groupings of some entries, accentuated by the costumes in solid colours, are going to grow to seem more natural or less so?

*Midsummer* gives all its dancers plenty of steps to perform, something else that has tended to go by default recently in favour of pliant plastic and manipulative adagios. He shows such a keen awareness of just what will make each of them look good that I am left uncertain whether he has been content to work within the very considerable capacities of a gifted young cast, or whether it is actually harder than it seems but with the difficulties all hidden.

There is no such uncertainty about Bintley's creation, *Consort Lessons*. He has stretched his dancers hard, especially in making them move much faster than they are accustomed to go, continually crossing a wide area with swift, precise steps, and although he too has cast his ballet from strength, mainly among the younger women with some more experienced men, you can see that they find it an effort. If they can catch up with him, not only this ballet but their other roles will benefit.

Bintley's music is the Stravinsky Concerto for piano and wind instruments, with Anthony Twinn as soloist. Perhaps it was the arrival of many latecomers, caught out by a very prompt start, and the consequent shuffling, hushing and squeaking of seats that caused a feeling of too lax a tension in the orchestra's playing of the first movement. On stage, this

features Alessandra Ferri as protagonist with Wayne Eagling and Stephen Jeffries as prominent soloists, and all but one of the other dancers in strong support.

The exception is Lesley Collier, whom Bintley reserves for the slow movement. And what slow movement he gives her! The rest of the cast may have been made to hustle, but Collier has long sustained passages of balance and descent, changes of weight and direction, that sometimes look almost incredibly difficult.

At least, they would look difficult but for the radiant poise and smooth, crisp exactness with which Collier dances them. She meets the challenge of Bintley's choreography with shining assurance, pushes her always admirable skills further than ever before, and as in other recent roles proves that she can still find new qualities to match new demands. I have never seen her dance more excitingly.

Collier is the star of the evening, in this and in MacMillan's *Four Seasons*, that completes the bill, but her colleagues in *Consort Lessons* keep up gamely. In particular, it is good to see Ferri being allowed for once to dance flat out without all that acting, and Jeffries allowed to cap a sequence of *tours en l'air* by the other men with a "double double" and a joking look of surprised delight.

Terry Barden's architectural setting, with its false perspective in the backcloth, perhaps adds to the vertiginous liveliness of the ballet, and his costumes with their varied stripes in warm colours are handsome. The new works together are a shot in the arm for the Covent Garden repertoire, but the dose is so small as to seem homeopathic: you have only December 12, 17 and 30 on which to catch them.

John Percival

## Television

Whether public schools enrich the national psyche or impoverish it is one of those arguments beloved of the British. William Boyd obviously belongs to the latter school of thought. The public school portrayed in his *Good and Bad Games* on Channel 4 last night was surely more public than most and lacked entirely, the restraining presence of masters.

His plot, that a much-bullied boy would wait 10 years for revenge, a melodramatic one at that, I found improbable and there was the further handicap that the same actors were required to play boys and adults with a 10-year gap between. This and the innumerable flashbacks made it difficult to know where one was.

So the story, despite the expertise of director Jack Gold, did not translate well to film. As the victim, Anton Lesser, with the aid of a moustache and beard, managed to hop back and forth over that age gap better than most and his performance, in the circumstances, was excellent. Martin Stanbridge, too, as the sporting all-rounder, tolerated but not accepted, did well, but all in all, this morbid little deterrent to parents about to plunge deep into their overdrifts for school fees did not come off.

It is not only boys at public schools who have problems, however. For it is a wicked world. The *Saffers* Tale, also on Channel 4, was the fifth in director-producer Jeff Perks' look at young East Enders. One hopes that its social implications would impress younger and possibly deprived viewers more than its detailed information concerning the practice of glue-sniffing and the relative merits of Boskitch, Evostick and Thiofix. It is possible that this might not be so.

The main character, Pat, admitted to sniffing at one point for 12 hours a day, seven days a week. The film opened with him telling the sad story of his life to a probation officer who was recording it so that magistrates could deliberate over an appropriate sentence.

We saw Pat subsequently with contemporaries pursuing their aimless life, practising their brand of escapism, and talking about it. They all appeared to have learned better

Dennis Hackett

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## Rock

### T-Bone Burnett Dingwalls

When a man who could have understudied for the young Robert Mitchum in *Thunder Road* - hooded peepers, unruly brown quiff, oddly pursed mouth - draws through a rock 'n' roll recitation of "Diamonds Are a Girl's Best Friend", plays the only decent version of "Not Fade Away" heard since the Rolling Stones took away its individuality and turned it into a Bo Diddley song, recreates the spirit of the late Richie Valens in a whooping "La Bamba" and then gets the Dingwalls audience to join in with "You Are My Sunshine", only the terminally jaded could maintain indifference.

T-Bone Burnett is a Texan singer and writer who toured with Bob Dylan's Rolling Thunder Revue in 1976, subsequently joined an obscure outfit called the Alpha Band, and has an appealing new album, *Proof Through the Night*, just released, featuring discreet guest appearances by Ry Cooder, Richard Thompson and Pete Townshend. To London on Wednesday night he brought a band including Andy Williams's sons, Andy Jr and David, who sang, excellent backing harmonies; an outstanding stand-out bassist; a percussionist who played mostly congas and wire

brushes; and his own impassioned amplified acoustic guitar. "This must be my best night phase," he said, but though there was a modicum of pop-talk and finger-snapping the music veered mostly between the light Tex-Mex pop-rock of *The Chirping Crickets*, the Bob Dylan of *Blood on the Tracks* and the Everly Brothers of *Instant Party*.

Burnett is a real charmer; laconically unassuming, humorous, slightly disorganised, but able to drop into the muted nightmare of "Hefner and Disney", a powerful modern parable, without needing to draw undue attention to the change of trajectory. He accepted requests cheerfully allowed the audience to derail a couple of monologues, and delivered a strong version of his new "When the Night Falls", a song fit to join Springsteen's "Night" and "Prove it All Night". Jackson Browne's "Tender is the Night", Bob Seger's "Hollywood Nights" and Lionel Richie's "Running Through the Night" in what is now a fully accredited compositional sub-genre.

Burnett stands alongside John Cale and Alex Chilton as a grown-up rocker with an off-centre vision; whether he widens his following beyond the present cult is up to a public not always noted for its discriminatory powers.

Richard Williams

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# Kenya: the rocky road from Uhuru

Kenya became independent  
20 years ago on Monday.

Xan Smiley finds it to be a  
land still struggling towards  
nationhood, and talks to

Daniel arap Moi in his  
first interview since he  
succeeded Jomo Kenyatta

The first rule of writing about Africa is that comparisons are everything. It is no good coming from Europe and pontificating on one African country without knowing others. Every country in the African continent can be convincingly portrayed in a bleak light. Through no fault of the Africans (who often do make matters worse), Africa is ill-starred. Practically every country is an artificial patchwork creation. Boundaries - crazy straight lines and rectangles - were drawn with brutal crudity by colonial mapmakers. Ancient traditions were swept aside, hybrid societies hatched overnight, ashamed of the old ways but given only a veneer of the new.

Peoples - tribes - often far more different from each other than, say, Spaniards and Poles, were hurled together and told to become one. There are almost no nation-states in Africa. They have been told to create nationhood out of a host of diversity. Kenya is no exception. It is not a nation. It is trying to become one. It is remarkable that it has held together as well as it has.

So the first rule is to look at the neighbours. Kenya has recently gathered an army of detractors, mostly from the left. Many of their criticisms contain more than a germ of truth: that there is too much corruption, that the grab-grab, free-wheeling, often chaotic capitalism has lowered morality, that some of the rich are obscenely rich while the poor are too easily trampled. Yet by the standard of every neighbour, Kenya is an island of tolerance, prosperity and progress for most of its people.

Look clockwise: Uganda, groping back to economic sanity under the still unloved minority leader Milton Obote, will take a generation to recover a modicum of civil decency; southern Sudan, its rich potential unfulfilled, is drifting back toward civil war; blood-stained Ethiopia is beset by at least four regional rebellions and beholden to the Soviet Union; Somalia's leadership is near-bankrupt and beleaguered. Only Tanzania, under the once-plausible Nyerere, for so long the darling of the progressive developmentalists, can stake a claim to equality with Kenya.

It is a false claim. Nyerere's much mentioned barb that Kenya is a "man-eat-man" society is still blunted by the Kenyan retort that in Tanzania "man eats nothing". It is true that Tanzania is more egalitarian than Kenya. There is no great individual wealth. In both countries there remain millions living on subsistence. But in Tanzania the mediocrity is deeper, the poverty is more uniform.

Impressive figures are ritually trotted out - the author is a writer on foreign affairs for The Economist and a former editor of the newsletter Africa Confidential.



Daniel arap Moi: suspicious of left-wing intellectuals

ted out - unverifiable and increasingly contested - to show advances in literacy, water supply and health care. Yet with less fanfare Kenya has done better on all levels, although contrary to standard wisdom, Kenya's agricultural potential is less than Tanzania's.

Kenya took longer to make primary schooling free and most still pay for secondary school. But the numbers of

## A government with a sense of determination

secondary students in Kenya (up from 31,000 at independence to 438,000 today) far surpass those in Tanzania.

Kenyan medical treatment, though often maladministered, easily outpoints Tanzania where drugs, anaesthetics, even gauze and soap, are unobtainable in many hospitals.

Agricultural development overall, Kenya is far ahead, the Tanzanian dream of ujamaa (collectivization of villages) having turned sour years ago.

Tanzanian sneers that the former white highlands of Kenya have simply passed to a new black elite are rubbish. There is indeed a mini-class of rich black Kenyans, there remains a landless minority who feel cheated by the fruits of independence plucked by others.

But most of the white settlers' farms were transferred to cooperative societies, often badly administered. Kenya's most justifiable boast is the growth of intensively farmed peasant smallholdings. Maladministration of bureaucracy and corruption is threatening the wellbeing of the small coffee farmer, the Kenyan cotton and py-

rethrum growers have already been sorely hit.

But many thousands of Kenyan smallholders have become modestly prosperous through coffee, tea, sugar and tobacco. Often in harness with those monsters of the Tanzanian demonology, the multi-national companies like Booker McConnell and BAT.

There are probably five million Kenyans out of 17 million who are now part of the peasant cash economy. Another two million or so have become urban. Many of the rest stay poor. But overall that is a fine achievement in 20 years.

All the same, Kenya's economy is shaky - like even the best in Africa. Fuel swallows 55 per cent of foreign earnings. The world recession has thumped tourism and played havoc with the prices of export crops like coffee. Government spending has been profligate, and too often corruption has led to the wrong contracts being signed. Three years ago Kenya had its first shortages of such goods as flour.

The IMF has arrived with its tough conditions for loans and already, while Tanzania still faces shortages of tea, sugar and soap and petrol, Kenyan shops are full and businessmen are predicting that they are coming out of the trough.

Government spending is sharply down, people are worse off than they were five years ago and inflation is around 24 per cent, but the recent elections and cabinet shake-up have lent a sense of determination to the Government.

The jitters that followed the coup attempt of August 1982 have gone, the armed forces better cosseted. President

Moi faces a very awkward few years but he seems to have acquired a new lease of life.

Kenyan politics have always been rough, dirty, but admirably lively. Tribal groupings are bigger and more competitive than in Tanzania.

The man at the top of Kenya needs to be tough. Kenyatta was the archetypal African nationalist, his strength based on one tribe (the Kikuyu) but his patronage spread cleverly across a tribal board where alliances are ever shifting.

He allowed a measure of opposition - so long as the centre was not threatened. Then he was ruthless. Two important politicians - Tom Mboya and J. M. Karuki - were assassinated without satisfactory explanation; at least one other lesser figure was killed.

Kenyatta kept about 15 of his severest critics in jail. His successor, Mr Moi, let them out, but soon put another few back in again. Within the one-party system, Kenya is a fairly loosely-controlled, limited democracy. People can argue - up to a point. Every five years MPs face the popular electoral music. Only a handful of candidates are barred from standing. Despite Mr Moi's suspicion of left-wing intellectuals, Kenya remains one of Africa's most open societies.

## Life across the colour line is more relaxed

Multi-racial? In a way, yes. There is more tolerance - pragmatic, amused, sometimes mutually contemptuous - than real social mixing or friendship. The cultures of both black and white still sit far apart, unyielding.

But compared with 30 years ago, when Kenya was as race-based as Ian Smith's Rhodesia, life across the colour-line is relaxed and natural.

Blacks now feel less need to assert themselves, whites have less cause to "bend over backwards". White numbers are down from 56,000 at independence to 39,000 today, Indians from 177,000 to 77,000. Most of the present whites are expatriates. Only 4,000 are Kenyan citizens.

The more profound change is the rise of a black middle class more fastidious as consumers, as professionals, and as voters. So far the politics of tribe and patronage prevail. But for the professional in his mid-thirties the political old guard no longer seems adequate. Its corruption is disliked not because it is immoral (few Kenyans really believe that) but because it increases inefficiency and impedes meritocracy.

The extended family and the trickle-down of wealth from the "big man" to the distant-related family followers have hitherto softened the inequalities of wealth.

But as the middle-class nuclear family takes over and the urban and middle classes slowly become detribalised, the old politics will lose their grip. But not yet. The old-time techniques of Jomo Kenyatta and the less flamboyant, sober Mr Moi have held Kenya together effectively.

The pace of change is perplexing. It is hard to govern so vivacious and rambunctious a country, so diverse in peoples, both firmly and liberally as education expands. The battle between laissez-faire growth and inequality, between order and liberty, will sharpen. Kenya has been fortunate in its past. The future could be fruitful; it will never be calm.

## Following the great man's footsteps

Daniel arap Moi lacks the subtlety of a Mugabe, the rhetorical flair of a Kamba, the philosophical thoughtfulness of a Nyerere. He is a solid village primary schoolteacher who became a local worthy in the 1950s, moved into the provincial limelight by dint of hard work and schoolmasterly virtue, led the colonial-blessed and mainly non-Kikuyu opposition to Jomo Kenyatta before independence 20 years ago, but was absorbed into the leadership of the ruling and single party as part of the post-Uhuru consensus in 1946. Three years later he became vice-president, when the founding father died in 1978, the constitutional machinery projected Mr Moi into the top spot.

He is modest: "It was difficult to fit into the shoes of a great man like Jomo Kenyatta", he says. Some, especially the dominant Kikuyu, thought he would be a stop-gap. He has grasped power tightly.

His stolidness and lack of intellectual sophistication does not go down well with the university students and intellectuals - but they are not Kenya. The growing professional classes sometimes fear that Mr Moi too often speaks impulsively, from the hip, on issues that require caution and planning.

Puritans, often Europeans who do not appreciate that politics in Kenya, as throughout Africa, are based primarily on patronage and on the play of ethnic checks and balances, complain that Mr Moi, with his immense business interests, is soft on corruption among the political and business elite (often one and the same). "I've managed to reduce corrupt practices... they exist in any society. I'm proud of what we've done", he insists. The scale may be less spectacular than at the end of the Kenyatta era, but most Kenyans reckon it is no less extensive. Even allowing for traditional indulgence, towards privilege at higher levels, corruption has reached dangerous proportions.

Much more to the point: the masses undoubtedly like him. He has the common touch and seems ill at ease with the political theory of right as much as left. "My ideology", he says simply, "is stomach." When I sagged that the west was better at stomach, the Russians better at guns, he booted with laughter. Kenyans do not like to admit that their official "non-alignment" is heavily pro-western.

He works exceptionally hard, travels ceaselessly, is genuinely committed to improving leaders, he is also courageously outspoken in favour of family planning - a very sensitive cultural issue. He has even suggested that "the government might have to step in" if the message is getting through. Not fast enough, probably, to remove Kenya from its place as "fastest breeder in the world. With an annual population rise of 4 per cent.

Over the past 20 years, he believes Kenya's greatest achievements are "the dismantling of a racially based society", where hospitals, schools, clubs and land were segregated, "the orderly transfer of wealth and land to Africans", and the forging of unity based on "political consolidation".

meaning an undocrinaire, fairly tolerant one-party state, with the proviso that "we have always held general elections at regular intervals". Three months ago, a third of MPs were peacefully voted out.

The growth of peasant prosperity is probably Kenya's greatest achievement, one that few African countries can match. Mr Moi conceded that coffee cooperatives are riddled with mismanagement and needed a clean-up, but he stated with pride that "70 per cent of our coffee and 40 per cent of our tea (together with tourism the country's chief earners) are produced by smallholders."

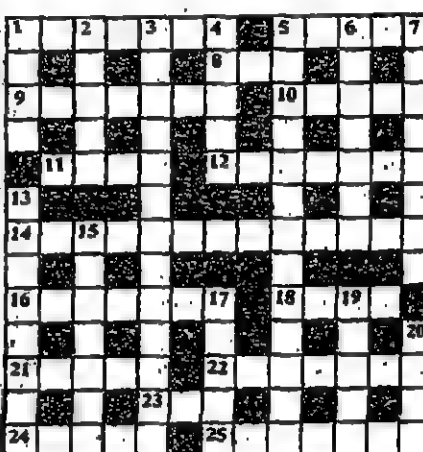
He is edgy at suggestions that Kenya has become more repressive. "For me it is far more important to improve the lot of the majority, he says.

"I can't understand our friends in the West who support these small minorities, who even cause loss of life" - a reference to the bloody coup attempt of August 1982 that did such harm to Kenya's reputation abroad.

"People should not compare us with the US and Britain. We started to put democracy here 20 years ago. We have a different background, a different history, with varying degrees of understanding of these things. If they want us to look like them, they will destroy us."

Would he step down voluntarily one day? He let out one of his periodic belows of laughter which do much to soften the sometimes rather wooden, uncertain delivery. "You are asking me too early... power stems from the people. But I wouldn't like to stick like a tick just for the sake of it."

## CONCISE CROSSWORD (No 219)



- |                            |                                    |
|----------------------------|------------------------------------|
| ACROSS                     | DOWN                               |
| 1 Perimeter (7)            | 1 Charitable donations (4)         |
| 5 Robs lightly (3)         | 2 Moon crack (5)                   |
| 8 NZ honey-eating bird (3) | 3 Household head (13)              |
| 9 Tawny (7)                | 4 Resigned (5)                     |
| 10 Nigerian river (5)      | 5 Christopher Robin's bear (6,3,4) |
| 11 Appropriation (4)       | 6 Flashed hair bunch (7)           |
| 12 Mexican American (7)    | 7 Quartz gemstone (8)              |
| 14 Basically (13)          | 8 Whirlpool (4)                    |
| 16 Lobe ornament (7)       | 13 Law breaker (8)                 |
| 18 Whirlpool (4)           | 15 Highly strung (7)               |
| 21 Indian loincloth (5)    | 17 Gaudier's mates (3)             |
| 22 Thrill (7)              | 19 Comical (5)                     |
| 23 Donkey (3)              | 20 Rhinos capital (4)              |
| 24 Hazards (3)             |                                    |
| 25 Level (7)               |                                    |

SOLUTION TO No 218  
ACROSS: 1 Raffle 5 Meddle 8 Boo 9 Remiss 10 Trough 11 Hash 12 Abeyance 14 Perfunctorily 17 Bulletin 19 Vast 21 Midrib 23 Assent 24 Bar 25 Belfry 26 Duenna  
DOWN: 2 Arena 3 Frightful 4 Abstain 5 Motte 6 DSO 7 Logical 13 Arriviste 15 Eudiste 16 Tankard 18 Tabby 20 Siren 23 Ref

moreover... Miles Kington

## Cosmic News in Brief

President Grig of Glut, the richest galaxy in the Universe, announced yesterday (Upper Quadrant Time) that the peace-keeping force he has sent to Sapunki would be reinforced by another three million troops. This was because the previous three million peace-keeping troops have been wiped out by a terrorist holocaust. So, come to that, has Sapunki.

"Sapunki, at this moment in time, has ceased to exist", said President Grig. "Our vigilance therefore has become all the more urgent. It is our sacred mission to keep peace in the black hole that used to be Sapunki. Thank you."

Comrade Prop, leader of the People's Galaxy of Smelt, has denounced Grig's peace-keeping force as a new provocation. He said he regarded the three million troops as enemies. To back up his word, he announced he would destroy them. To make things even clearer, he would destroy them this very moment. He pressed a black button on his video-desk. He then allowed himself the first smile of the evening.

The three million new peace troops in the Sapunki hole have been destroyed.

President Grig of Glut said that while he regretted the disappearance of his three million peace troops, he was glad that all their details were on videotape and that he could reconstitute them at a moment's notice. He then did so, and personally welcomed them back.

Today (Upper Quadrant Time) is the 4,000th anniversary of the assassination of Quingo Blueblatt, ex-President of the galaxy of Glut. Many distinguished videopeople were present at the memorial 3-D rerun of the killing, including Quingo Blueblatt himself, who is reconstituted every year for the event. "I am glad to be here for the celebration of my death", he said, "especially as I am none the worse for my..."

At this point he was assassinated again.

During the semi-finals of the Inter-Galaxy Song Contest, the outlying world of Ring-a-boom-boom was destroyed by excess reverbs. Despite apologies by the organizers, survivors of the holocaust seem undismayed. "It's all part of the fun", they said. Favourite for the final is three-headed singer Squish from Valium, with his ear-her song "I Love You, I-Kill You".

Rumours of the death of Comrade Prop, leader of the People's Galaxy of Smelt, swept the known universe today after he failed to appear for his world's National Doodads celebrations. Comrade Prop has become popular as the first communist leader to have a sense of humour, and he will be much mourned in the Lower Quadrant, where the poor planets are clustered.

Later, live TV transmissions from Smelt were announced, direct from Comrade Prop's lying-in-state. This seemed to confirm rumours of his death.

Later still: During a particularly solemn moment of Comrade Prop's lying-in-state, he leapt from his coffin and said to the camera: "So much for rumours of my death! Had you there, didn't I?"

A scandal has blown up in the Inter-Galaxy Snooker Finals, now in its last year. Snooker is now computerised so that a shot on any table can be reproduced on any other table, which means that none of the competitors has to leave home. But Steve Byron-2, the Glut champion, is accused of tampering with the computer programmes so that the pockets move to meet his ball. The Video Squad have been called in to investigate.

Universal Telecom reminds all thinking creatures that tomorrow is the last day for telephonic messages for Universe Day. The weather will continue strange, with black holes in the Lower Quadrant and occasional asteroid showers everywhere. Now here are the main points of the Cosmic News again.

## THE TIMES Tomorrow

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● Values: 100 gift ideas to toy with; why the proof of puddings and cakes for Christmas lies in the testing

● Travel: For Ever England - Jamaica; and Weekend Breaks in France

● Choirs: Paul Jennings in praise of the vox pop

● Sport: Draw for 3rd round of the FA Cup; can Coventry continue their comeback against Liverpool?

Plus: News from home and abroad; the top gardening column on what to buy; fingered relatives; Drink on the Hospices de Beaune; guide to carol services; Family Life on what children should give their parents; Out and About on agitating and steam railways; selected choice of the week's events in the arts

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FRIDAY PAGE

Pat Jones is caught in a poverty trap. It has cost her her husband, her home and her happiness, as she tells Veronica Grocock

# Drowning in a surging sea of debt

When Mrs Pat Jones first learnt that she had to give up her Birmingham home, she was heartbroken. It was the final and most harrowing blow in a long fight against accumulating debts, and she describes it as "like being kicked by a mule".

"We had struggled for so long, years trying to keep on top of the mortgage (if nothing else), and now it's all gone. We've lost everything", she says.

Pat, aged 35, is a former nursing auxiliary and mother of six children: four girls and two boys, aged from 17 to 6. She is a cheerful, sensible person, but her face shows signs of strain as she recounts the troubled story of the family's money problems.

Before Birmingham Council repossessed it last month, they had all lived for 10 years in the house on Woodgate Valley Estate on the outskirts of the city. In 1981 they decided to take up the council's offer of a 100 per cent mortgage.

"I always wanted to buy a house of my own", Pat recalls. "We moved into it when it was new, and I think that gives you an incentive. We were happy. It was a lovely house. We were going to do so much."

Her husband, Barry, had chosen to take voluntary redundancy in 1979. He was a machinist with a car components firm that (as he had predicted) became bankrupt. He and his father then joined forces in a painting and decorating business.

"It got off the ground and everything was going fine, but in his first year he earned only £3,000 which, to keep eight of us, was just a joke. I was working at the time, at St Mary's Hospice, and when his work started to fall off, I carried us through on my wages of £48 a week", Pat says.

Soon, almost imperceptibly, they found themselves caught in a vicious, downward spiral. The rot set in when he was laid off. Everything declined with it.

"We had been forced to sell the car, and Barry's dad lost a leg as a result of diabetes, so all the work dried up anyway. Then we had problems with the Inland Revenue. They more or less accused me of cooking the books."

Eventually, the business folded completely. It was the first time that Barry had ever been out of work. He began to claim supplementary benefit. Soon afterwards, Pat gave up her nursing job, partly because of the unsocial hours, but mainly because it was proving financially impractical (her earnings were being deducted from his social security payments, so that "all I was working for was £4 a week").

They slid deeper and deeper into debt. Household bills were put to one side and forgotten. Pat suffered from constant depression through sheer worry about making ends meet.

"I was in such a state over it all. Barry just used to 'up' and go out. We seemed to drift further and further apart. We could never talk about our financial troubles. His attitude was 'Never mind, let's keep going and hope for the best'. But I was the one answering the door to these people..."

Among the creditors were British Telecom, British Gas, the Inspector

**I feel very sad because the children never have anything new**

of Taxes, the local water authority and a catalogue collection agency. The biggest sums still outstanding are the mortgage and rates arrears, about £600 each.

The Department of Health and Social Security pays her gas bill direct now, and she has had an electric slot meter installed which clocks up an average of £2 a day. (When they have a Sunday roast the meter registers about £3.50.)



Pat Jones with her family, from left, Nathan, Donna, Temple, Emma, Holly and Tara: "We've lost everything"

Birmingham's Money Advice Centre, to which Pat turned for advice in June, has now compiled an administration order itemizing the family's debts. This arrangement for a fixed amount to be divided among the creditors in agreed weekly instalments.

Then there are all the "unseen" extras, such as children's clothing, school photographs, and washing-machines that break down - as Pat's did recently. "It cost me £10. I had to borrow that."

Pat and Barry have now separated, after 17 years of marriage. It was no stormy, hammer-and-tongs parting, she says, but a direct result of their recent vicissitudes. "It's really very sad, because we used to get on really well, and he's a good father. We've had some nice times."

A proficient DIY man, Barry's interest in the home quickly waned when their finances slumped. "He did all the kitchen in pinewood. It was beautiful. He was so upset at losing the house that he just ripped the lot out."

Pat and five of her children (Donna, the eldest, is staying with

Pat's mother) have been rehoused in a much smaller house slightly further from the city centre. "I've always been able to turn to my mum. She's been very good", Pat says. Barry is staying temporarily with Pat's brother, who owns a pub in Birmingham.

The children seem to have adapted well to the family's changing circumstances. Even so, as a conscientious and caring mother, Pat is concerned about their day-to-day wellbeing. "I feel very sad", she says again, "because they never have anything new."

She groans at the thought of Christmas, remembering last year when "we sat here without a drink or anything. The kids had their things. It was the first year that Mum and Dad didn't come to us on Christmas Day. I think it was just because the atmosphere was so bleak."

When you are on the breadline, feeding a family of six is a perpetual worry, especially during the school holidays (the children have free school meals). "I do things like sausage and mash, egg and chips. But meat is a luxury."

The eldest son, Temple, 16, is a

petty officer in the sea cadets. Recently he won an award for the best cadet of the year in the United Kingdom. The prize was a month's trip to Canada. He went there last July. "We were over the moon about it", his mother says.

She is proud, too, of her daughter, Donna, who landed a secretarial job within weeks of joining a government training scheme. Donna and her boyfriend took Pat and the youngest son, Nathan, who is partially sighted, on a camping holiday in Devon last summer. "She's such a thoughtful girl. We had a nice caravan and she paid for everything..."

"People think that when you're down and out, it reflects on your kids, but I don't think it does. They're good kids - they accept - they know I haven't got the money."

Gloomily realistic, she realizes that she could face a lifetime of paying creditors. "It's like a millstone round my neck, all these debts are not going to vanish overnight."

There is not a "standard of living", she protests, "just an existence. You can't ask 'What shall we have for tea?'"

Thanks to loyal friends and the efforts of the Birmingham Money Advice Centre, the pressure is less intense than it was. With hindsight,

**We hung on for grim death thinking 'Something will turn up'**

she wishes she had sought help earlier. Instead, "we kept hanging on for grim death thinking 'Something will turn up'."

They received no official written notification of the council's intention to take possession of their home. The Money Advice Centre, intervening on the family's behalf, faced a frustrating amount of "buck-passing" by council departments. "We didn't know for such a long time what would happen to us, and that made it worse."

In time, Pat Jones hopes that they will "bounce back". She feels now that their previous house was "unlucky" for them, and that a fresh start in a new environment might signal a change in their fortunes.

She often looks back and wonders "How am I in the mess I'm in today?" Neither she nor Barry had ever got into debt before. Neither of them was given to rash spending or bouts of extravagance. They had no hire-purchase payments to maintain. Through no fault of their own they found themselves in a poverty trap in which their living standards were eroded and they were denied even the most basic requirements of food, fuel and a roof over their heads.

"I'm worse off now at my age than I ever was", she says, "when things should be getting better with the kids growing up."

"When they were little, I worked and we managed. We've never had it really cushy, but we were able to have a fling sometimes. To think you've worked and scrimped all your life and ended up like this."

## MEDICAL BRIEFING

### Careful steps to rubella vaccination



The National Rubella Council campaign, launched with the support of the Princess of Wales recently, aims to encourage all teenage girls and adult women to accept rubella vaccination. Young girls, if they say yes to the jab, will generally be vaccinated as a matter of routine through the schools immunization programme. But if you are an older woman and are not sure whether or not you are already immune to rubella, a few extra steps have to be taken.

It is vital that you are not pregnant when you go for a vaccination. The rubella vaccine contains live virus. This does not mean that you will pass the infection to other people, but there is a small risk that the virus could infect the baby you are carrying, just as it could if you had contracted rubella casually.

For this reason your doctor will probably take a blood test to see if you are already immune to rubella before vaccinating you against the disease. If you are not immune, he or she will ask you to return soon after a period for vaccination, to make sure that you are not pregnant. Your doctor will also want reassurances that you will use adequate contraception for at least three months afterwards.

#### After-effects

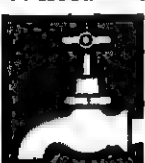


Some 8,000 Israeli doctors shocked their countrymen earlier this year when they used strike action to bring better working conditions and a 60 per cent wage increase from their government. But their little irony, a survey in Jerusalem has shown that the people of that city didn't suffer disastrously without full medical care.

The strike closed 28 general clinics, leaving hospitals - which were also running at only 30 per cent capacity with skeleton staff - and seven impromptu aid stations to cope.

Yet throughout the 17-week strike no more people died than in a similar period the year before. Dr Paul Slater and Dr Phina Ever-Hadani argue in *The Lancet* that this raises the question whether in normal times Jerusalem has too many doctors.

#### Water menace



The organism which causes the pneumonia known as Legionnaires' disease is commonly found in British hospitals and hotels, experts from the Public Health Laboratory Service have discovered. One laboratory found that 36 out of 54 hotels and hospitals had the organism, *Legionella*, in their water systems.

These findings, reported in the *Lancet*, should not evoke the panic which surrounded the first recognized outbreak of Legionnaires' at an American Legion convention seven years ago. The experts explain that it is simply more evidence that the organism is common and in most cases does not do much harm.

However, *Legionella* can cause sometimes fatal pneumonia in individuals who are already weakened by an underlying illness such as another chest infection, cancer or an immune system deficiency, and the findings do illustrate that measures to prevent these cases will have to be taken in a large number of establishments.

#### Child fears



Young children with chronic constipation are often miserable and a great concern to their parents. Pain from struggling to defecate leads to fear of going to the lavatory and a temporary loss of the reflex of responding to a full bowel. Some parents become so worried that the child is sent to hospital where the impacted faeces are removed and the child examined to make sure there is no obstruction.

Parents and child are usually reassured that nothing is wrong, but as soon as they all go home again the child slips back into the old pattern.

Increasingly, however, child psychiatrists and psychotherapists are becoming involved in helping children and parents change their behaviour at home. Dr Alison Fraser, tutor in child and adolescent psychiatry at the University of Manchester, has worked with children who had problems with involuntary soiling.

The impetus of the scheme is that children should be kept out of hospital because investigations can be counter-productive. The families were visited at home by Dr Fraser, or one of her colleagues, and asked to keep a record of the child's behaviour.

The children were first reminded to go to the lavatory regularly. They were then rewarded with a star or extra bedtime story for each successful visit. Children were further rewarded if they went to the lavatory without prompting and, most importantly, any soiling was ignored.

Of the 55 children involved in the 10-month scheme, improvement was noticed in more than 60 per cent.

#### Critical days



There is circumstantial evidence to suggest that drinking in early pregnancy may be the most harmful time for unborn children. The foetus is well formed by the end of the first three months of pregnancy and it seems that there may be "critical days" within that period, when an excess of alcohol may lead to a baby being born with abnormalities - recognized as the foetal alcohol syndrome. But when the days fall is still open to speculation and research.

Women who continue to drink in early pregnancy, but then stop after being advised to at the "booking clinic" at hospital sometime between the eighth and sixteenth week, still produce smaller babies than those women who have cut down their alcohol consumption from the start.

All this cannot be of any great consolation to women who do not even realize they have conceived since as many as one in three to four pregnancies are unplanned.

Dr Peter Davis, a Warwickshire GP with a special interest in the effects of alcohol on foetal development, also points out that at the moment about 1 to 2 per cent of all babies are congenitally deformed, but wonders whether any of these expected abnormalities are due to overindulgence. He stresses that only more research will provide the answer.

Olivia Timbs and Lorraine Fraser

## Who can help when the money runs out?

There are more than three million children in Britain whose parents are on the poverty line. As unemployment rises, a growing number of families are finding themselves steeped in debt. Today's debtors are not so much the "won't pay" but the "can't pay". A recent report by the National Consumer Council and Welsh Consumer Council describes who gets into debt, why and how, and what happens to them.

Mrs Shelagh Salter, chairman of the Welsh Consumer Council, explains: "The single most important cause of consumer debt today is a sudden unexpected drop in income - such as that which is caused by redundancy, short-time working, illness, a death in the family or marriage break-up."

"Knocked for six by an event like that, people who previously paid their bills promptly and responsibly

may suddenly find themselves with little hope of repaying what they owe. Frozen in a blind panic, they do nothing at all - except hope for a miracle. They don't know where to turn for advice and help - there is a severe shortage of money advice services. They may be ignorant of their rights and of the course that the law may take against them if they don't pay. Instead of doing the sensible thing and telling their creditors at the outset about their financial circumstances (which may ensure sympathetic treatment) they tend to keep quiet."

It is not easy to measure the full extent of debt in Britain today, says the report, because information is patchy. "But one thing is clear", says the National Consumer Council's Elizabeth Stanton, "it's growing. And although only a minority of people may be affected, for them it can be a nightmare."

"Many debtors are victims of some kind of crisis. That doesn't absolve them of their responsibilities but it does mean they should be treated with humanity, given an orderly way out of the mire and helped back on to sound financial ground."

The report includes examples such as the following:

● Between 1979 and 1982 the proportion of loans from the 19 biggest building societies which were more than six months in arrears doubled from 0.19 per cent to 0.42 per cent.

● The number of tenants in rent arrears between 1980 and 1982 rose by almost half, and the amount outstanding more than doubled, among 13 Welsh housing authorities.

It also makes certain recommendations for helping to prevent debt:

● More education in consumer literacy and money management skills, which are needed by all school children to prepare them for adult life.

● Public bodies and commercial lenders should be sensitive to the individual circumstances of those who owe them money.

● Fuel boards and water authorities should use disconnection only as a last resort.

Debtors and their families must be protected from harassment, says the report, and expert money advice early on, before problems get out of hand, is crucial. Mrs Stanton says: "We look for a system that is firm but fair, effective but humane."

Of more than five million inquiries dealt with annually by citizens' advice bureaux, 100,000 involve debt. A report from the West Midlands, *Debt in the Recession*,

published earlier this year, suggests that around 20 per cent of their workload involves money-related problems. Fifty per cent of the project's cases were unemployed, with the failure of small businesses coming a close second.

Sheila Gibbons, a project worker and author of the report, says: "Debt is often thought to result from the ease with which people can take on credit. But most of the problems I dealt with involved the payment of basic essentials such as rent, rates, gas, electricity and clothing."

An estimated £9 million of debt has been handled by CABs in the West Midlands during 1983, a figure believed to be just the tip of the iceberg.

"Debt in the Recession: The report of the Money Advice Development Project, a project funded by the West Midlands County Council."

## COMMENT

### Not quite equal to the task

Strange things are going on in Parliament this week in the name of sex equality. Today the Sex Equality Bill, a private members' bill presented by Jo Richardson, receives its second reading. And on Monday, the Government made its third attempt to introduce the Equal Pay (Amendment) Regulations in the House of Lords.

The history of the Equal Pay (Amendment) Regulations is unusual, to say the least. The European Court of Justice found Britain in breach of community law in July 1982 in that our legislation did not include the concept of equal pay for work of equal value. As a result, the Government prepared regulations and procedures which were passed in the House of Commons in July, but withdrawn from the House of Lords twice before being passed, with an amendment, last Monday.

The amendment, moved by Lord McCarthy, added to the motion of approval: "but that this House believes that the regulations do not adequately reflect the 1982 decision of the European Court of Justice and Article 1 of the EEC Equal Pay Directive of 1975."

It is a considerable defeat for the Government. The lords spoke passionately against the regulations, Lord Denning described them "tortuous and obscure". They are indeed obscure and tortuous. They are also objectionable in allowing the employer a far wider defence than in other equal pay cases.

Speaking in the Commons in July, the minister adduced "market

forces" as a "material factor" employers could use in their defence. But it is precisely those "market forces" which allow women to earn only 74 per cent of what men earn. And the percentage is falling. What price then satisfying the EEC directive on equal pay?

Then there is the Sex Equality Bill. Among other things, it aims to introduce the concept of "equal value" into a long-overdue consolidation of the Equal Pay and Sex Discrimination Act. It also incorporates half the amendments to those Acts proposed by the Equal Opportunities Commission in 1982.

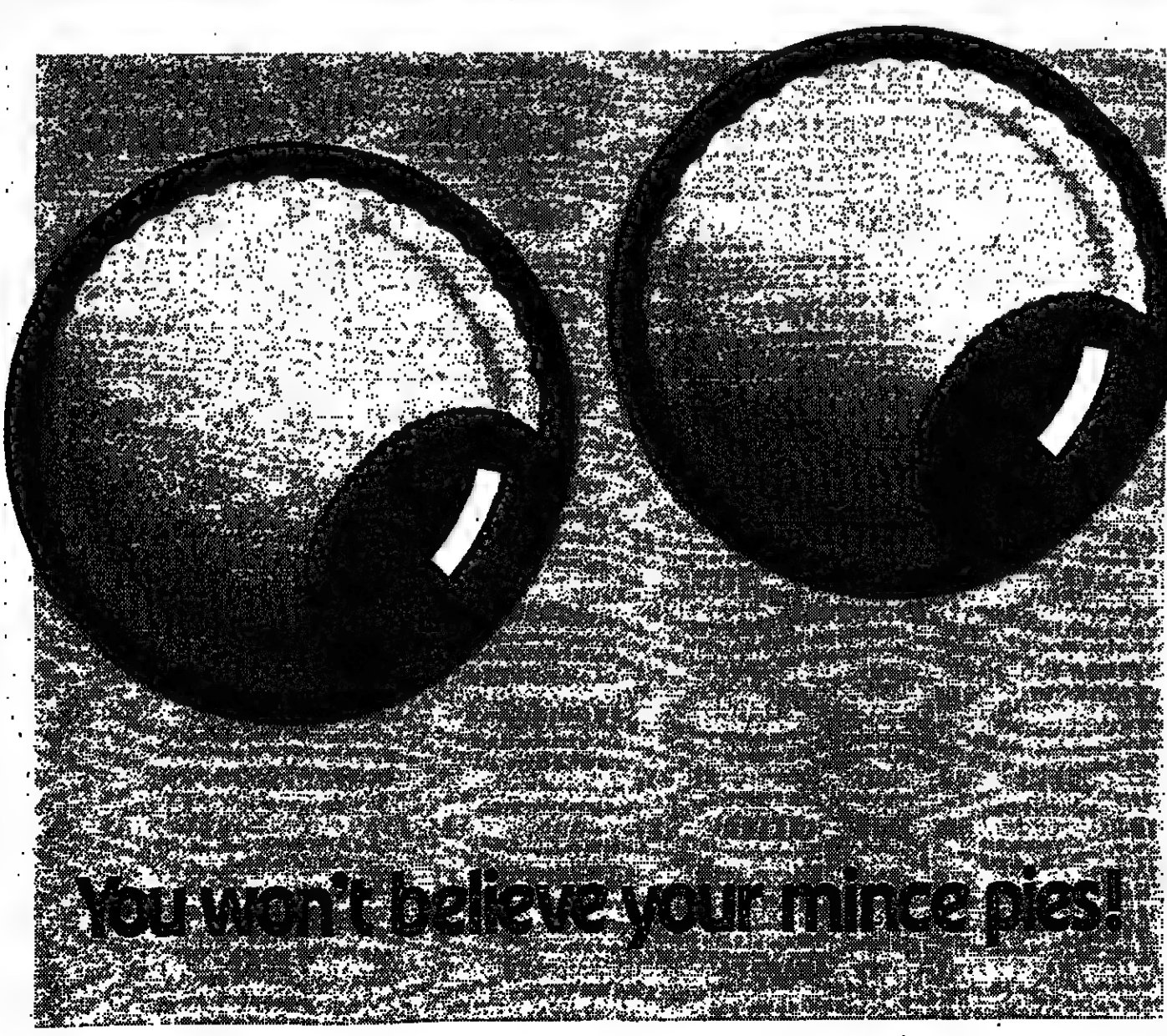
But it has grave defects. For instance, on this vexed equal value concept it concentrates on collective agreements, recommending that cases which may have a "substantial effect" on such agreements be referred to the central arbitration committee. That has some merit, yet Europe requires the right to determination of equal value claims by "judicial process", which means an individual before a court. The central arbitration committee is no court. But the industrial tribunal is.

More importantly, however, the Bill is designed to make unlawful discrimination on grounds of homosexuality. But discrimination on grounds of sexual preference is not discrimination on grounds of sex, and the Bill cannot pretend that it is.

What the Government should do now is produce new primary legislation containing the EOC's proposed amendments. Only then will the need for complicated subordinate legislation be over, and we will cease to be found constantly in breach of European law. But it shows no sign of doing so.

Today's debate is of enormous importance, however, and the Bill, despite reservations, is deserving of support, for it is a brave beginning to a long overdue process of establishing real equal treatment for women in the United Kingdom.

Julia Neuberger



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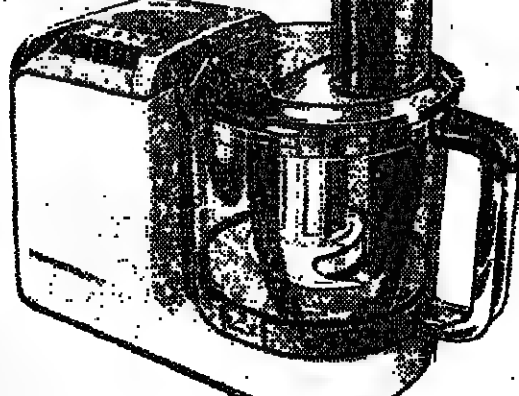
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## THE TIMES DIARY

### Will he, won't he?

Exactly who wrote what to whom in the Yorkshire Television/Ministry of Defence/IBA debate concerning tomorrow's television transmission of *The Day After* promises to be more interesting than the programme itself. The Ministry claimed that Yorkshire's first written approach to Michael Heseltine asked only "would he like the opportunity to go on television?" after the programme.

Yorkshire Television seem to remember that the request to Heseltine took the form of a ten-paragraph letter, teleaxed to the Ministry on November 30, outlining exactly what they had in mind for the Ministry to do - that is, be interviewed by Robert Kee and take part in a panel discussion along with Robert McNamara and General Bernard Rogers. (After the letter was despatched, it was learned that General Rogers was unable to appear on the programme.)

Mr Heseltine didn't reply to Yorkshire or even send them a copy of the letter that he subsequently wrote to the IBA stating that the political direction of the film was unbalanced. Yesterday, Mr Heseltine received a reply from Lord Thomson, chairman of the IBA, who didn't disclose the contents of his letter to Yorkshire either.

By lunchtime yesterday Yorkshire, having been kept in the dark by practically everyone, were of the opinion that the Minister had decided not to appear but Mr Heseltine's assistant was saying more promisingly: "I can't say that he wouldn't appear and I can't say that he can."

### Head start

Imran Khan, the flamboyant captain of the Pakistan cricket team, has entered the beauty business, backing a Vidal Sassoon. According to the Asian newspaper *New Life*, "Dar has pampered the hair of celebrities like Elkie Brooks, Russell Harty and many top international models." Older readers will be reminded of Denis Compton lending his sleek good looks to the promoters of Brylcreem.

### Double tempo

Some concertgoers are beginning to think that the GLC is "Working for the Arts in London" rather too strenuously. In its attempts to boost trade at the Royal Festival Hall, the council has introduced jazz sessions in the Music Box on the third floor.

The sound of these sessions often filters through to the main concert hall, giving patrons two concerts for the price of one. People sitting near the back of the auditorium have complained that the jazz was often louder than the classical music they had come for.

"The effect was rather like being in one of those restaurants where the music drowns out your conversation," said one complainant. Tonight, the Digby Fairweather Quartet plays against Dame Janet Baker and the BBC Symphony Orchestra. And may the loudest performer win.

### BARRY FANTONI



"One thing's certain: this won't all be over by Christmas"

### Team spirit

President Canaan Banana of Zimbabwe has disclosed where he would like to be buried: Harare's Rufaro soccer stadium. The 47-year-old president, a football fanatic who helped found the Zimbabwe parliament's Tornado team, revealed his choice at a recent soccer stars' banquet.

● The French might feel superior eating oysters rather than turkey at Christmas. But this year we have an opportunity for one-upmanship. The Loch Fyne Oyster Company will deliver their oysters to you by Securicor.

### Badge of courage

While Danuta Wales is waiting to collect her husband's Nobel Prize in Oslo tomorrow, thousands of badges commemorating the occasion are being clandestinely produced in Poland. The badges simply say "Nobel '83" with a white dove fluttering below the large rounded letters made famous in the Solidarity logo. The badges are on sale in dimly lit kiosks in churches. Profits are going to the families of imprisoned Solidarity members.

### Silver lining

The very day after the Athens summit failed, the European Commission announced it had granted "a negative clearance to a know-how agreement." It was apparently something about which was allowed to make the rubber things which keep rainwater out of cars. Perhaps Athens was not such a failure after all.

PHS

# PR: call in the professionals

by David Burnside

Would Mrs Thatcher ever have considered putting Lord Whitlaw, Mr Biffen or Mr Pym in charge of coordinating and presenting Conservative policies during an election campaign?

Surely not. In the tight discipline of an election, the Conservative Party has shown, both in 1979 and even more so in 1983, that it is up to all the tricks of the public relations and marketing trade. The clearly amateur Labour campaign organization and the over-flamboyant trendiness of the Alliance were no match for the slick and authoritative machine in Smith Square.

Why then is the Conservatives' performance or even their apparent understanding of public relations so abysmal when in government?

Let us take an example. No public relations man can change the fact that the burden of taxation has risen under this government. To try to claim otherwise would be blatant distortion - and quite unconvincing. Yet if the Government retains, from the Prime Minister down, a commitment to tax reduction, it should surely be within the wit of its PR men to orchestrate a popular campaign to promote the economic advantages of less tax - the advantages spelled out quite well in its two recent manifestos - and to explain what must be done to achieve it. On past performance, it is unlikely that such a campaign will be launched, let alone be successful.

Mr Pym, responsible for government PR from 1981 to 1982, could not coordinate the representation of the Government's policies

and "corporate image" because he did not really believe in either. Mr Biffen, between 1982 and 1983, adopted the fatalistic approach of a "true Tory" so convinced of the Conservatives' right to govern that re-election would come naturally rather than having to be worked for.

What are Lord Whitlaw's prospects? To start with, he can only fail in his stewardship if government public relations is confined to using his seniority to stop his more junior colleagues saying the wrong thing at the wrong time.

As in policy formulation, policy projection can only be carried out successfully if the established government information service is demoted from its present dominating and influencing role in No 10 and government departments. There is a need for a fully-fledged Prime Minister's Department and it should contain a PR secretariat to serve Lord Whitlaw in his new-found role. Its staff should be drawn not from governmental service but from the private sector, and developed and financed on the same lines, which is accepted by all parties, as the small band of policy advisers who at present surround a number of ministers.

Certainly, a No 10 press secretary and departmental heads of information should be appointed (and trained) to manage the day-to-day dissemination of departmental

information. It is time these officials were relieved of the task of advising ministers on strategies for policy presentation. Public relations is not just about passing out data; it requires expertise, planning and, in a political environment, political sensitivity. By tradition, training and, largely, inclination, those currently charged with the task of coordinating government PR are not suited to the role.

Without radical structural change, government public relations will inevitably continue its present course: conflicting speeches from different ministers, poorly written, badly timed, and fired shot-gun fashion at the media and the public; ministers' popping up on television and radio ill-prepared, half-hearted and often quite oblivious to the demands of this "modern" medium of communication; an accent on defence, post justification and minimization of damage.

It is a tragedy that a Conservative government has to rely on winning elections despite itself and hoping for continuing failures and inadequacies from its opponents, rather than running a sustained and planned PR campaign, culminating in the six-week, purely party, battle at the hustings. Just as they did in 1983, the party professionals and advisers will again, in 1987-8, be forced to rescue the vote-winning potential of the Conservative Party in the run-up to a general election, so decimated by its dire PR performance during its years in government.

The author is public relations director to the Institute of Directors.

## David Butler asks why the Tories still ride high after six indifferent months

### Winning in spite of themselves

Six months ago today Mrs Thatcher was re-elected with the biggest majority since the war. Today, surprisingly, polls show that the Government still retains the 43 per cent support recorded on June 9. The Conservatives do not seem to have paid any electoral price either for the embarrassments that have beset them, or for the recent improvements in Labour's image.

At the beginning of the new Parliament, Mrs Thatcher was snubbed over the speaker'ship, over MPs' pay, and over capital punishment. The Government has been visibly inept in its handling of foreign affairs and of the Parkinson scandal. And health service cuts have brought into salience one of the few issues on which it was patently a loser. Although the economic indicators have shown some improvement, Mr Lawson's untrammelled taxation, taken in conjunction with the speeches of Mr Walker and Mr Pym, as well as the growth from the right wing, have hardly left an impression of a strong government confidently striving prosperity.

At the same time, Labour has come unscathed through what had promised to be a devastating leadership conflict. Neil Kinnock with his charm and potential appeal has replaced the low-rated Michael Foot. During the honeymoon period, the party has done nothing to remind the electorate of the divisions that proved so alienating in the previous parliament.

Why then has the electorate failed to show its accustomed volatility? After six indifferent months, the Government is still handsomely ahead in the polls. Not since 1961 has the party in power managed to stay sustainably in front for more than 18 months. Have the rules of the political game changed fundamentally?

For the last five years the path of British politics has defied the expectations of participants and observers alike. In 1979, no one envisaged three million unemployed, and no one would have forecast the re-election of a government that presided over such record

joblessness. The automatic assumption that unemployment cost votes has been shattered. But new assumptions grow up. The wild instability of the polls between December 1980 and June 1982 (confirmed by the results of by-elections and local elections) taught us to expect a continuing saw-saw from an ever more volatile electorate.

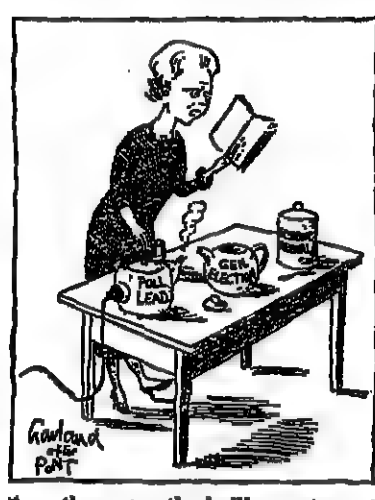
When every party saw its strength change by more than 20 per cent within a few months, politics had reached a new pitch of uncertainty. But since then an unexpected stability has come over the scene:

Voting intentions November 1980 to June 1982 (MOF)			
	Cons	Lab	Alliance
Highest	48	50	13%
Lowest	27	27	44%

After the Bermondsey by-election and again during the general election, the Alliance crept up momentarily on Labour. But, by and large, since the Falklands war the broad pattern of party support has stayed within a point or two of Conservative 44 per cent, Labour 34, Alliance 20.

Since last October, Labour's support, which during the early stages of its leadership fight stayed at or below its general election abyss, has climbed up, stealing perhaps two points from the Conservatives and six from the Alliance.

Voting intentions fluctuate in response both to events and to changing conceptions about the leaders and the parties. The British matter less than many suppose, but certainly their images today are sharply differentiated. Collectively the Conservatives are seen as the party which "has the best leaders" (52 per cent say Conservative to 21 per cent Labour). Although Mrs Thatcher has a slightly lower rating on almost every quality today than she did nine months ago, perceptions of her outstanding characteristics are unchanged - 82 per cent



"... then pour the boiling water out of the kettle into the leopard"

Garland's cartoon in The Daily Telegraph last April.

still see her as stubborn, 78 as tough and 60 per cent as resilient; only 28 per cent see her as caring and 15 per cent as warm.

The public gives Mr Kinnock a better rating than Mr Foot on almost every quality: he is seen as more caring (42 per cent) and warm (31 per cent) than Mrs Thatcher but less tough (38 per cent), stubborn (33 per cent), or resolute (34 per cent). The findings suggest a sense of suspended judgment about Neil Kinnock as a leader.

But, over time, issues matter more than personalities. Current attitudes on key problems remain the main source of Conservative strength. On the handling of almost every subject except the health service the Conservatives continue to outrate Labour. Even on the volatile and increasingly salient questions of defence policy, the public continues to be heavily multilateralist, even if it is evenly divided on cruise.

Although party support has been unexpectedly stable over the last 18 months, there is no reason to suppose that this will continue. The factors that have loosened the glue

of party loyalty so spectacularly over the last 20 years are still at work.

Moreover, the essential weaknesses of each of the parties are still there. Labour's solid working-class base has been eroded by the spread of house ownership and the growth in non-manual employment. And its prospects are limited by its structure and its ideological involvements.

A year from now the process of reselection will start and news reports about the party will focus on the constituency troubles of some leading Labour MPs. The party is in financial straits and the current Employment Bill may make things far worse.

The Alliance, despite its 25 per cent of the votes last June, and its generally inoffensive image, has still to settle its internal disputes. The dualism of the two Davids may be far more damaging than any of the leadership troubles of the last few years. Moreover the Alliance will have great difficulty in securing publicity for anything save its quarrels. It must rely on stipulatives by its larger rivals and a fortunate incidence of by-elections to reassert its prominence. It has a larger bridgehead than three years ago but the spectacular breakthrough of 1982 will be harder to repeat in 1985.

The Conservatives can look forward to four years in power. Yet their position is flawed. They have less support in votes than any Conservative government since 1922. They depend on a strong leader who is admired rather than loved; their secondary leaders are notably lacking in charisma or communication skills. The conflict between a middle-of-the-road pragmatism and a militantly free enterprise ideology has more divisive potential than ever before.

The economic future remains uncertain. It will be strange if, at the least, the Conservatives escape the mid-Parliament slump. Remember Orpington (1962)? Sutton and Cheam (1972)? Hillhead (1982)? The author is a Fellow of Nuffield College, Oxford.

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David Watt

## What's left when the dust settles?

When the nuclear catastrophe film *The Day After* (which Britain will see tomorrow) was shown on American television, it was followed not only by a homily from a senior member of the government but also by a panel discussion of experts. The most interesting contribution to this session came from Dr Carl Sagan, a physicist from Cornell University, who has become a considerable TV personality in the United States, thanks to his skilful presentation of programmes about space. Sagan's complaint about *The Day After* was that it was far too soft. In his view, it grossly underestimates the horror of nuclear war by ignoring two of the most severe after-effects: darkness and cold.

The work of a group of American scientists suggests that the result of the kind of nuclear exchange imagined in the film would be a "nuclear winter" lasting up to a year, in which light would be severely reduced, if not extinguished, and temperatures in many parts of the medium latitudes of the northern hemisphere might fall to freezing in summer, and arctic frost in winter.

This hypothesis is just beginning to get publicity in Britain and in the aftermath of *The Day After* it is likely to get more. Moreover, if it is true, its significance can hardly be over-emphasized: for it would overturn the whole of the conventional view about deterrence and the nature of nuclear war. It is very important, therefore, to understand what is involved.

The first and main thing to grasp is that this is a quite new twist to the argument. In the past there has been plenty of talk about the danger likely to be caused by the debris thrown up into the atmosphere by a large number of nuclear blasts on ground level or a little above. But after considerable debate, scientists have generally concluded in recent years, that most of the dust would be of sufficient bulk to come down fairly fast and what was left in the stratosphere and the lower atmosphere after a few days or weeks would be no more than is thrown up by a single large volcanic eruption - much more dangerous, certainly, since it is radioactive, but not enough to make permanent or fundamental changes in the environment or endanger life on a grand scale. Those far enough from the explosions to escape blast and burns, and able to take cover from the contamination of immediate fallout, would survive.

The essence of the new theory is that it takes account of a factor that has not been seriously considered before, namely smoke. The blasts would cause devastating fires. Cities, forests and grasslands would burn fiercely, but incompletely, for many days, and project scores of tons of soot particles into the troposphere (lower atmosphere). Now soot particles have different properties from normal dust. They are very small and therefore do not fall to earth so fast. Second, being carbonaceous, they are highly absorbent. A thick smoky layer would spread within a few weeks over large areas of the northern hemisphere.

Because solar radiation would be absorbed by it, there would be immediate drops in temperature of up to several tens of degrees centigrade, and very little light. Moreover, as the sooty blanket warmed up in the middle troposphere, faster, to add to the layer.

The resulting atmospheric balance - a warm smoke layer overlying a cool air layer of cold earth - would reduce rain and snowfall and help stabilize the mass so that these conditions would probably last for many months.

The damage that might be done by this state of affairs depends, clearly, on its severity and duration. It is common ground that those who live beside oceans would be better off than others, because the sea acts as a store of heat. But if, as Mr Sagan and others now claim, the minimum temperature on the big American and Eurasian land masses after a 5,000-megaton war, were -23°C even in summer, and the light, after a 10,000 megaton war too little to support photosynthesis for many months, the biological consequences might well be the disappearance of huge tracts of vegetation resulting, by a chain reaction, in the death of animals and in fearful famine.

This scenario is, or ought to be, music in the ears of any sensible person interested in peace. For if it is right, it has the profound advantage of demonstrating to any American or Soviet leader that if he launches a massive nuclear attack it will produce his own destruction automatically. This is the first point: unlike the deterrents contained in the opponent's possession of nuclear weapons (which is dependent on many imponderables, such as will-power, invulnerability of missiles to first strike, and so forth) this deterrent is absolutely certain, and inherent in the nature of the earth and the sky. The second point is that (unlike President Reagan's will o' the wisp of an infallible anti-missile defence) it is not destabilizing. It does not do away with nuclear weapons and the caution that goes with a nuclear stalemate. For the possibility of one's opponent using a strictly limited number of nuclear weapons and therefore avoiding a nuclear winter would remain; and with it, the necessity of possessing some nuclear weapons oneself.

The only thing is: is it true? I have consulted a few British scientists in this field and they are understandably cautious. There are many uncertainties in the hypothesis, and the actual figures of a likely temperature drop are highly sensitive to them. Using an only slightly different model of the rate and direction that particles normally spread in the atmosphere, and making slightly different assumptions of the quantities of soot produced, or the amount of cloud cover at the time of the explosions, or the exact amount of dispersion to be expected from rain or wind, one comes up (as another group of scientists in California have done) with a temperature drop of only 10 to 15 degrees, rising again to no more than 3 degrees below normal within 90 days.

Nevertheless, everyone - including the authors of a Soviet study - seems to agree (a) that temperature disturbances of some kind are very plausible and (b) that the effect of soot particles is a neglected and important factor in the post-nuclear equation which ought to have much more status. There will now, presumably, be a pause while a considerable dog-fight in the scientific community takes place. Meanwhile the vision of a dark and freezing planet is a terrible and haunting one.

Philip Howard

## And we'll all pool together...

The Old Coll is starting a museum. Belt up the Harrovians and other trouble-makers at the back who shouted that it always was one. This summer Eton College is going to open the first public historical museum of a major British school. (Winchester and Harrow have galleries of works of art with some historical material; but not historical museums within the meaning of the Act; in any case their histories are far less interesting.)

The Provost of Eton, Lord Charteris, is about to send a letter to selected Old Etonians appealing for such memorabilia as a pre-1914 top hat (preferably with Pop seals), early reports and school books, "lens glass" from Tap. Please send nothing to the old boy until solicited. He does not wish to be buried beneath bits of carpentry laboriously made by grandpas in the School of Mechs, or photographs of house groups, unnamed.

The reason for this innovation is an interesting social change. Eton, attracting more than 60,000 tourists a year, mostly during the summer holidays. They come on the bus tour circuit from Windsor, or even from Heathrow, where enterprising companies pick them up from hotels while they are waiting between long-distance flights.

When I was a lad in College, visitors from outside were rare creatures: the parents of tugs (*loggi* or King's Scholars) tended not to run up cars or the petrol. In my first half Thompson R.S. ran into Long Chamber shouting: "Howard, a bus load of your relations has arrived to visit you."

They turned out to be Africans visiting my parents on Moral-Re-education business. At the time I was not amused. Visitors come from all round the world today, without exciting the Little Etonian comment that they used to. It is sensible and admirable to give them a museum showing the history of the school. It will be housed in the fifteenth-century vaulted Undercroft beneath College

Hall, where the wine for high table and College beer (brewed next door in the Brewhouse) were stored.

One of the things we are going to have is a cupboard of things confiscated by beaks. We already have three offerings: the inevitable pack of black Sobranies, now hollowed-out book for concealing the same, and an outside veterinary syringe (from the days before drugs), bought at Boots for the purpose of terrorizing smaller boys.

We are going to have a mock-up of a boy's room of about a hundred years ago, and have much of the furniture in hand, including the bed (from the French *bureau*, do you know, Watson?), fold-up bed, wash-basin, brush-board and so on. We still need a really nice ottoman, and even a cane chair (plenty around, but people want to keep them). The room should probably purport to belong to an Oppidan wet-bob in Pop, so that he can have accumulated the prettiest buttons and bows for the simple-minded available.

The museum will have to grow the nettle of corporal punishment, since it is the subject that most arouses the curiosity of Eton's visitors. There will have to be an account of tanning and swishing, the block and Dr Keate of the strong right arm, who broke mutinies of boys by mass floggings that went on for hours. I avoided the birch, though I had to attend its application as a preceptor in the awful solemnity. I nearly fainted, and I don't think Robert Birley enjoyed it much, either.

Manifold other delights are promised, including a gallery of distinguished Old Etonians from different centuries, as it might be Boyle, Shelley, Eric Blair, and so on. I predict establishment canvassing and ambitious rivalry about who goes in there as intense as the rivalry about who gets his Field colours. It is a great school and a repository of learning and English history - contrary to its image in the sensational press. Its museum will be a fascinating addition to our national archive of museums.





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## AIMS FOR THE ALLIANCE

Nato foreign ministers are meeting in Brussels amid greater uncertainty than usual about the aims and prospects of the alliance. On the one hand there can be optimism that the military balance between East and West is in reasonable shape and that recently elected governments have been able to start implementing the Nato decision of 1979 on intermediate nuclear weapons. Clearly there is still a reassuring bedrock of confidence and continuity in the alliance. On the other hand there has been an increase in public unease which has expressed itself through opposition parties, primarily in Britain and West Germany, which have broken away from the central consensus on security.

If these parties do not return to the centre they could make the alliance itself an issue in future elections. It will therefore be more important than ever over the next few years for Nato to develop policies which are not only rational in themselves, but agreed among governments, but which also retain broad confidence among electorates. Public confidence in government is just as much part of security as military preparedness and economic prosperity. This is not just a matter of public relations and argument. The majority of voters should be credited with sufficient realism to distinguish the central issues of the alliance from peripheral disagreement, and to see when the alliance is properly representing the security interests of its members.

Controversy over missile deployments is not really a central issue. It is a symptom of a deeper feeling that the alliance has been losing its sense of direction and consequently its cohesion. Several areas of disagreement are involved. The Americans feel that Europe is not contributing

funds appropriate to its wealth, and that it is insufficiently conscious of the extent to which its security interests could be threatened from outside the Nato area by interruptions in the supply of oil or other raw materials. Europeans reply that if they spend more they will damage their precarious economic health and thereby reduce their security more than by forgoing some weapons or men. Many also argue that they do understand their dependence on lifelines to the Middle East and elsewhere but merely disagree with the Americans on the best means of protecting them.

There have also been growing debates about the extent to which Nato defence depends on the early use of nuclear weapons. New developments in guidance system and other areas of technology make it possible to have a much more effective conventional defence, so that the use of nuclear weapons could be delayed, but these new weapons are expensive. Much could be saved by better standardization of Nato equipment but at some point electorates may have to be asked whether they want to make the financial sacrifices necessary to realize their wholly understandable desire for less reliance on nuclear weapons - particularly the West German electorate since that is the critical part of Nato's frontier.

Meanwhile Nato will have to tackle another major source of disquiet, which is the widespread feeling in Europe that it has lost sight of its obligation, regularly reaffirmed in Nato documents, to pursue security through political and diplomatic means as well as military. The two tracks of Nato policy - military preparedness and negotiation - are not confined to the decision on missile deployments. There is no

doubt that the sharp deterioration in relations between the super powers has contributed a lot to the fears which have spawned the protest movements. Obviously Nato cannot return to the optimism of the early days of détente, which have been shown now to have fostered illusions about possible breakthroughs in East-West relations. The fundamental antagonisms will remain for the foreseeable future. But there can be dialogue and negotiation without inflated hopes or unnecessary concessions, and this is increasingly necessary both to reassure Western electorates and also to remind the Soviets that the West is always open for business, on the basis of fair dealing.

It is in this area in particular that Lord Carrington will be able to make an outstanding contribution. His appointment as Secretary General is therefore not only welcome but just right in its timing. No one can accuse him of having illusions about communism, yet he is neither aggressive nor ideological in his approach. His calm pragmatism is just what is needed at this moment. Coupled with immense diplomatic skills and wide contacts it should enable him to reduce Atlantic differences and nudge the alliance into a more coherent approach to the Soviet Union. If successful this will also help to persuade doubting members of the public that Nato is not just a war-fighting machine but a political alliance dedicated to certain values. As Lord Carrington said in his Alastair Buchan Memorial lecture in April: "The West must be true to its own values. It is the Leninist tradition which is one of conflict, not cooperation. Our own tradition must be for the peaceful resolution of conflict through energetic and forceful dialogue."

## A LITTLE PIECE OF ENGLAND

Calke Abbey is not one of the great English country houses. It is a handsome baroque pile of anonymous authorship put up at the start of the eighteenth century and given neo-classical trimmings a hundred years later. It sits low in the seclusion of its deer park, grouped with church and stables and clumps of trees, in the middle of the populous north Midlands but withdrawn from them.

Inside, as if the outcome of a successful experiment with time, there is preserved fresh and in full the furnishings and hangings, the furniture specimen cabinets and bric-a-brac, the tackroom and workshops, of a Victorian estate. It is that - the harmony of its surroundings and integrity of its interior - that makes Calke Abbey extra-special. The hyperbole of art historians and heritage buffs in extolling the place may owe something to the fact that they have only just been able to get into it. Even discounting the highest flights of enthusiasm Calke Abbey is without question worth preserving intact.

Its remarkable resistance to the march of time is explained by the recurrent reclusive tendency of the Harpur-Crewe family, which has owned the property since 1622. One baronet or another would settle into his vast estates to manage them in a benevolent and eccentric fashion, turning his back on society beyond the demesne, doing perhaps the duty of high sheriff of the county when his turn came round, or raising a troop of yeomanry in case of national emergency. Otherwise

he would be wrapt in solitary pursuits, of which 200 cases of stuffed birds are the only memorial.

The mansion being vast, a new occupant had no need to clear the clutter of his predecessor: he chose another room. And so the accumulation and fossilization continued, far surpassing Eddridge or Osborne. The later Harpur-Crewes were slow to embrace the amenities of modernity. The motor car came to Calke in 1949, the electric light in 1960, the arts of tax avoidance never.

And that is now the trouble. Vast capital taxes are being exacted on the death of the present owner's brother in 1981. Prudent administration would have reduced the liability, but would it have tolerated the inconvenience of keeping everything exactly as it was? Mr Harpur-Crewe has offered house, contents and park to the nation in lieu of part of the tax bill. The Treasury would accept it if the National Trust would in turn accept it. The trust cannot without funds for repair and endowment for maintenance, requirements put at £3.6 million and £4.1 million respectively. It has accordingly been proposed that a further 7 or 8,000 acres of "non-heritage" land be accepted by the Treasury in lieu of tax to act as capital sum and endowment.

That rational solution has been rejected. It is clear from the minister's speech in the adjournment debate on Monday night that the proposal was judged and fell according to the norms of

internal government financing. The tax would be foregone, there would be hypothecation (dread word) of revenue, there would have to be reallocation of funds from other programmes, a precedent would be set and a bad example.

In fact the precedent and example, if any, would be excellent. A country house deemed worthy to be preserved for the enrichment of our culture and the enjoyment of the public would be maintained from the rents of agricultural land dedicated to that purpose. That is the source from which such houses always were maintained, and what better source for the future? To be acquiring public assets of an agricultural kind while strenuously selling off public assets of an industrial and commercial kind might be thought to be slightly embarrassing. But another of the present Government's priorities is to arrest the decline in the number of agricultural tenancies. Ministers have a Bill in the Lords to that end. By rejecting the "in lieu" proposal for the Harpur-Crewe estate they are rejecting one sure way of keeping the bulk of that land in the rented sector and actually propelling it out.

The minister now urges the interested bodies to put their heads together and come up with an alternative scheme for securing Calke Abbey. One hopes that may be possible. But their heads have already spent a lot of time together without an alternative being found. The prospect is not very good. Meanwhile the best chance will very soon be lost.

## Ethiopian colonialism

From Mrs Mary Dines  
Sir, Louis FitzGibbon (November 22) rightly pointed out that, in spite of Ethiopia's appalling record on human rights, there has been a deafening silence on the subject internationally. The Soviet Union and Ethiopia's other allies are hardly likely to speak out, but there is no doubt that western governments and agencies are equally to blame for this. The accepted wisdom is that, given sufficient incentives, the military junta will turn to the West and all criticism must be stifled.

The incentives that interest the junta are food and money, theoretically for drought victims, "refugees" and a host of other unfortunate, but in practice to enable them to feed their massive army. Today, in addition to army units all over Ethiopia, over 80,000 regular troops and 120,000 militia are being prepared for a new offensive against the Eritreans. Ironically, thousands of the latter were lured into "feeding centres" earlier this year and then taken away for military training.

In August I interviewed a number of Ethiopian officers who had been recently captured by the Eritreans. They gave me precise details of how food from the EEC was distributed to soldiers in the various fronts in Eritrea. They also admitted to consuming relief supplies from Canada, Denmark (powdered milk) and other sources.

and in Ethiopia have also been neglected because the menfolk have been killed or taken for the army. Crops have also been destroyed and animals slaughtered. How, then, could the military regime feed the army from their own resources?

Even if food sent for relief reaches the people for whom it is intended, which is unlikely unless it is distributed by international agencies, it can only assist the military by releasing local supplies.

The violations of human rights in Ethiopia are carried out by the junta and its local commissars. The West is as responsible for allowing this situation to continue as the Soviet Union, which has armed the junta to the teeth. It is said that many people of good will who give to various appeals for Ethiopia may be seen as enemies by the very people they wish to help.

Yours faithfully,  
MARY DINES,  
48 Brownlow Road, N11,  
November 26.

## Oxford admissions

From Mrs G. M. Dance  
Sir, We have now had time in which to consider the new arrangements for admission to Oxford University, and the more we consider them the less happy we are. Somewhat unusually, I find myself in agreement with the Master of Marlborough College in his opposition to them, but I feel it should be stressed that many of us in state schools feel, somewhat cynically, that the press-

ure for change has come most from certain less distinguished independent schools, where parents have been reluctantly reluctant to pay fees for a seventh term in the school.

Certainly, we can see no way in which the new system will benefit state schools. On the one hand, schools like this one, where we have been able to run a seventh-term sixth, thanks to the stamina and dedication of staff, will now have to decide whether to put fourth-term pupils in for the examination, knowing that the coaching we can offer at that stage will be considerably less than in public schools, as we shall not be able to contemplate an accelerated stream, or whether to let them apply for conditional offers only, an almost impossible decision.

On the other hand, students in the majority of state schools which are not able to offer a seventh term at present will not have gained anything either, at present these students can apply at that stage, mostly in competition with each other. In future they will be in competition with students from privileged homes, in accelerated streams in independent schools.

I foresee the prospects of state school students at Oxford dropping still further and I hope Cambridge will maintain the examination option in the seventh term. Yours faithfully,  
G. MARY DANCE, Headmistress,  
The Grammar School,  
Harrogate,  
North Yorkshire,  
November 24.

## Prison terms of unequal value

From Mrs Sarah McCabe

Sir, The writer of your third leader, "The place of parole" (December 3) drew attention to the principles of sentencing upon which the Home Secretary will rely in excluding from release on licence certain categories of offenders.

These general principles, retribution for the specific offence committed and deterrence from similar offences which might be contemplated either by the offender himself or by others, are, of course, the basis of the judges' calculation of the appropriate length of imprisonment for the mischief done by each offence.

Until now this calculation was relatively simple; custom and occasional guidance from the appeal courts established that such and such an amount of fraud or theft, in such or such circumstances, would merit a sentence of, say, five years, while violence or damage of a particular kind or degree would deserve the same.

It is generally assumed that the establishment of the parole system did not disturb this calculation because each man or woman sentenced would have an equal chance of release on parole when the risk of reoffending and prospects of resettlement were taken into account. In other words, the sentencing system and the system of parole were deemed to be separate and distinct.

The Home Secretary's statement of November 30 changed all that. Since the sentences for certain classes of offence are not to carry with them the likelihood of parole, like sentences no longer have equal value. Thus, sentences of more than five years offer the possibility of parole to thieves or common but not to drug traffickers or violent offenders. The sentencing system and the parole system have become interdependent.

In these circumstances it must be assumed that judges, both in sentencing and in the process of appeal, will have to consider the different values of sentences over five years that are now applicable to different categories of offences.

Will we now see an upward movement in sentences for serious fraud or theft to catch up with non-paroleable sentences for serious violence or a downward movement in sentences for violence to match their paroleable equivalents? Or has the sentencing system, which has been calculated in units of time for a general measure of the mischief effected, been shattered beyond repair?

Yours faithfully,  
SARAH MCCABE,  
1 Stoke Place,  
Old Headington, Oxford,  
December 5.

## Disruption of concert

From Mr Anthony Sinclair

Sir, Miss Bazaiget, in her letter last Saturday (December 3), expressed a preference for the campaign for Soviet Jewry to be carried out other than by disrupting concerts.

Through your columns, I would like to assure her that all such methods are used. The objective of our campaign is to secure publicity for our repressed co-religionists in the Soviet Union.

On October 30, for example, a march through Hyde Park to the Soviet Embassy was supported by 7,000 marchers - Jewish and Christian. It was peaceful in the extreme. There was no violence, there was no disruption. But (significantly) there were also no reports whatsoever in the quality London press.

If such expressions of deep feeling were given the publicity they warrant - contrast recent events in Warrington - other, more vocal, avenues would be unnecessary.

Yours faithfully,  
ANTHONY SINCLAIR,  
58 Lake View,  
Edgware, Middlesex,  
December 5.

## Lines of beauty

From Mr Joseph Dean

Sir, May I put in a plea for the revival of traditional tree avenues along the routes of suitable motorways? The scattered planting of ill-assorted trees at irregular intervals, which seems at present to pass for treescape planning, creates a scruffy sort of landscape in places where lines of noble classical trees would in due course add beauty and dignity to the scene.

Somebody will object about falling leaves, but I suspect this is more a railway than a roadway problem. The wind and wheels on motorways seem very swiftly to sweep aside the slush where leaves might otherwise lie and in any event the trees should be planted as far back from the edge of the roadway as possible.

Yours faithfully,  
JOSEPH DEAN,  
The Hall,  
West Bromwich,  
Ashford, Kent,  
December 5.

## A matter of title

From the Chairman of the Social Science Research Council

Sir, Professor Fletcher (December 5) and your readers may like to know that on November 18 the Privy Council were pleased to approve on her Majesty's behalf the proposal from my Council to change its name to the Economic and Social Research Council.

## Private belief and public reference

From the Archbishop of York

Sir, I have so far refrained from replying to your criticisms of my sermon on public faith in the hope that others would do the job better than myself - as indeed many of them have. Before the correspondence closes, however, I would like to add two further points, both of which are spelt out at much greater length in my book *Church and Nation in a Secular Age*.

The first concerns the question of truth. As I understand your editorial (November 21), you were proposing an extreme subjectivist view of religious truth, which has the merit of putting it beyond the possibility of refutation, but in the long run renders it meaningless. To make truth claims which go beyond mere subjectivism, as I myself would wish to do, is inevitably to enter into the public realm and to imply the existence of concepts and categories in terms of which the claims can be substantiated.

A belief is not necessarily true just because a lot of people share it, but it cannot even be claimed as true in anything but a trivial sense unless it is in some measure publicly accessible.

My concept of public faith has more to do with this intellectual and emotional accessibility of religion than with the kind of head-counting mistakenly envisaged by some of your correspondents. To take a simple but relevant example, what

meaning could be given to the title, "The way of the Cross", without its public frame of reference in Christian history?

Clifford Longley (feature, December 5) is right to see that the corollary of public faith is a much more searching ecumenism - and this is my second point. But he is wrong, surely, to tie this to the extraordinary notion that what the Church has to say is "true, guaranteed and validated by the indefectible judgment of world Christendom".

It is precisely this interpretation of public faith which rightly scares some of its critics. There is need for a much more subtle ecumenism, one which welcomes, indeed encourages, great diversity, yet finds a common point of reference in the truth which transcends all its particular expressions.

Let me stress the point again. Public faith, as I understand it, is not a nationally or internationally imposed creed. Nor is it the lowest common denominator of popular piety. It is the framework of assumptions, mostly drawn from the great historic expressions of religious faith, which makes the public articulation of personal faith both possible and fruitful.

Yours faithfully,  
JOHN EBOR,  
Bishopthorpe,  
York,  
December 7.

## House Buyers Bill

From Mr J. E. Humphrey

Sir, Retired from legal practice for some years now and with no financial interest in the outcome of the current conveyancing alteration, I nevertheless find it too much to sit silent in the face of certain voiced misconceptions.

As for delay, of course anything which can speed up attention to the searches and inquiries which have to be made of local authorities must help; but the delays in that respect are nothing to do with solicitors and the arrival on the scene of licensed or any other operators will not help in that.

Nor will such an innovation have any effect on the other and more exasperating delays which are so frustrating to vendors and purchasers - the likelihood of there being in any chain of transactions someone who fails to obtain the mortgage advance required, or who suddenly decides not to move home after all, or who cannot or will not synchronize where that is vital; or who, having received a bad survey report, has to look round all over

again; or who fails physically to vacate on the completion date, or who is some other exponent of the infinitely variable art of conveyancing upset.

As for expense, whatever the documentary simplicity of a transaction, there can still be endless hassle of the sort mentioned above, with wear and tear, time and trouble every bit as great as that, say, in a heart-rending fight over the custody of a child.

It is an occupational hazard of a solicitor to have chalked up against him, cumulatively, the delays of everybody else with whom he has to deal - in conveyancing matters not specially numerous, perhaps, but in most departments of work multifarious.

It is not easy for him to explain this, or the difficulty of much of his work, short of conducting a course for his clients on the law and its practice - an unattractive offering, one feels.

Yours faithfully,  
J. E. HUMPHREY,  
9 Offington Gardens,  
Worcester,  
West Sussex,  
December 6.

## Penalty for KAL 007

From Sir Philip Goodhart, MP for Beckenham (Conservative)

Sir, It is now three months since the Korean Airlines KAL 007, was shot down by the Soviet air force. Since then, numerous international bodies have passed resolutions calling upon the Soviet Union to pay compensation, but it is plain that the Soviet Government has no intention of paying up.

Meanwhile, I note that in recent years there has been a substantial Soviet incursion into the British cruise ship market. This is done through CTC, an entirely Soviet-owned though British-registered company. Since 1979, the number of bed/nights places offered by CTC to British tourists has increased from 116,400 to 306,600 in 1983.

CTC's depreciation and insurance companies are entirely covered by the Soviet Union. The wages paid to the Soviet seamen on board are about one-eighth of those paid to British seamen. The cost of the marine fuels used on board the CTC ships is,

estimated to be a quarter of the prices paid on the world market by British cruise operators.

These Soviet cruise ships were banned from American ports by President Carter, soon after the Russian invasion of Afghanistan. The Italian Government is also limiting the number of Soviet cruises from Italian ports.

Should we not consider imposing a ticket surcharge or boarding fee, of perhaps £25 per person, on those taking Soviet or Soviet-subsidized cruises? We might encourage other countries to take similar action. The money raised by this surcharge could be paid into a Korean airline compensation fund. The money would be divided amongst the heirs and relations of the 269 people who were killed in that disaster.

We would thus limit unfair Soviet competition in one area, and help the victims of the Russian outrage in another area.

Yours faithfully,  
PHILIP GOODHART,  
House of Commons,  
December 1.

## Airlines' safety

From Sir Archibald Hope

Sir, On December 8 it will be exactly seven years since the Air Transport Users' Committee (of which I was then a member and later chairman) issued its report on European air fares. In this we showed that high fares in Europe were to a large extent caused by overmanning and low productivity of the European airlines, mostly nationally owned.

Our conclusions were reinforced 18 months later when British Airlines, in their report for 1977-78, admitted that compared with eight foreign airlines (of their choosing) BA's productivity was less than 60 per cent of those with whom it was compared.

Mr Moss Evans suggests (Decem-

ber 3) that the cuts in manpower, etc., which Lord King has courageously made may lead to lower safety standards. He should look again at the operations of the major US airlines as we did. Their safety record is second to none. They are all privately owned. So why should a privatised BA be any different?

Rumour has it that BA should shed another 10,000 employees to reach target efficiency. Perhaps Mr Evans has heard this story and is quite properly trying to protect his members' jobs. But that has nothing to do with safety.

Yours truly,  
ARCHIBALD P. HOPE,  
The Manor House,  
Somersetford Keynes,  
Cirencester,  
Gloucestershire,  
December 6.

## Purpose of pensions

From Mr Patrick Carroll

Sir, In the wholly commendable concern to achieve justice for the early leaver now disadvantaged by the terms of final-salary pension schemes there is a danger of losing sight of the purposes which pension schemes can serve in making it possible for employers to train employees.

Some of the success of Japanese industry is to be attributed to the loyalty of employees to their employers, and the training and education of specialists in electronics within the major companies is developed in this context. Training is often neglected in this country for the convincing, if not good, reason that an employee has not enough incentive to stay with an employer after completing his training.

Fully portable pensions will increase the already considerable difficulties that City institutions have in training employees, e.g. cashiers. Damage to the economic wellbeing of the country will result. This has been seen to happen in Singapore in recent years, where private pension arrangements have not been common and employees are free to move without pension penalties.

Some progress can be made

towards portability of personal pensions by using the criteria of money purchase to establish what transfer value is fairly attributable to the contributions made by employer and employee up to the point when transfer takes place. But there remains the impossibility under a final salary and also a money purchase-type scheme of allowing for future salary increases in real terms.

If employers really wish to make it possible for employees to move freely without pension penalties within an industry it is necessary to adopt the principle of "national solidarity", as is common in France, where national schemes for particular classes of employee include all the relevant employing institutions. In this way an engineer could move from one engineering company to another as easily as a lecturer can now move from one of the universities in this country to another because all participate in the same pension scheme.

Nationwide schemes for particular industries also provide more security for employees in the event of one employer going out of business.

Yours faithfully,  
PATRICK CARROLL,  
The City University,  
Northampton Square, EC1,  
November 28.

## The killing of an Irishman

From Mr William McDowell

Sir, Today my personal friend Edgar Graham, Official Unionist member of the Northern Ireland Parliamentary Assembly, was shot dead in University Square, Belfast, who lectured in the law department, only a few yards from where I study, was a fervent opponent of sectarianism and a firm supporter of law and order. He spoke out against segregation in our prisons; he was a real Unionist and a contributor to the letters columns of this paper. He was shot dead by the Provisional IRA.

We all watched Gerry Adams carry the coffin of a Provo yesterday and we all listened to a Roman Catholic minister speak of this shooting of an armed IRA man as the killing of an Irishman in his own country.

Edgar Graham was an Irishman; he has been slain by Irishmen. If Mr Graham, an opponent of capital punishment, was a legitimate target how long will it be until the inadequate security policies of the British Government result in my murder?

I have genuine tears in my eyes as I write this letter, I have just listened to Ken Maginnis, MP, on the radio crying. Not only are we sick and tired; we are all frightened. Sinn Féin must be banned. We want selective internment.

I cannot use the death of a friend who opposed hanging to call for its return, but I do call for an all-out drive to "take out" Republican terrorists before it is too late and we, the Unionist people of Northern Ireland, have to take the law into our hands to defend ourselves.

Yours faithfully,  
W. McDOWELL,  
Bloomfield,  
Belfast,  
Northern Ireland,  
December 7.

A letter from Mr Graham was published on September 17, 1983.

## Going it alone

From Lord Kaldor FBA

Sir, In your leader today (December 5) you argue that non-nuclear defence requires "the reintroduction of conscription: massive reserves based on the continuing military liability of every citizen and a considerable increase in our conventional defences against missile, air and maritime threats."

What you fail to realise is that if such defences are required to make us secure against Russian aggression they are required in any case, whether we possess nuclear weapons or not. There is no "cheap" alternative in nuclear defence - it is a bluff.

When it comes to the point of pressing the button on British Prime Minister (not even Mrs Thatcher) will be found willing to do it, for no one would acquiesce in a move that is likely to cause in retaliation the total destruction of the people of these islands. (The same goes, *mutatis mutandis*, for every other European member of Nato).

Yours faithfully,  
NICHOLAS KALDOR,  
House of Lords,  
December 5.

## Prosecution by stores

From Mr Timothy Lawrence

Sir, I fear that your correspondent, Mr K. W. Lidstone (December 2), gives a somewhat partial view of the prosecution of theft from shops in London. As one who has long been involved in both the prosecution and defence of such cases, may I attempt to assist.

The initial arrest is effected by the store detective. The police are called to the store. They decide if the suspect should be taken to the police station and charged.

If the suspect is charged, the prosecution is forthwith placed in the hands of solicitors (unlike the vast majority of police prosecutions in London) and the actions of such solicitors are governed by the principles enunciated by the Attorney General to guide prosecutors. Despite the initial decision to charge, the prosecuting solicitor may, and for good reason will, discontinue the prosecution when all the information is to hand. But an outside observer may not appreciate that, for example, the suspect has several recent convictions for similar offences or there is clear evidence of overt dishonesty, perhaps in the form of a concealed pouch.

The decision to take the matter before a jury rather than the local magistrates is always that of the defendant. It is hard to understand how a state prosecutor, a much more expensive system, could produce fair results.

In the recent case under discussion, the intemperate remarks of the Recorder precluded any evidence being placed before a jury and thus denied justice to both sides.

Yours faithfully,  
TIMOTHY LAWRENCE,  
Claude Hornby & Co., Solicitors,  
35 & 36 Great Marlborough Street,  
W1,  
December 3.

## Dusty answer

From Mr R. F. Tapsell

Sir, The Outback cattleman's car sticker quoted among your November 30 book reviews - "Eat more beef, you bastards" - is so quintessentially Australian (no disrespect to that delightful country). It reminded me of an urban version of the same flavour, to be seen on the vehicles of a refuse disposal contractor in Perth, Western Australia - "Satisfaction guaranteed, or double your rubbish back".

Yours faithfully,  
R. F. TAPSELL,  
29 Sidmouth Avenue,  
Stafford,  
December 3.







# FINANCE AND INDUSTRY

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

## Regan flies in with cold comfort for Europe

The irrepressible Mr Donald Regan, the US Treasury Secretary, flew into London yesterday on his way to Brussels, armed with a soothing mixture of American good intentions designed to calm passions inflamed by the sky-high dollar and massive US budget deficits.

Just as Mr Regan was telling us about Mrs Margaret Thatcher, the Prime Minister, was blasting American economic policy in the House of Commons.

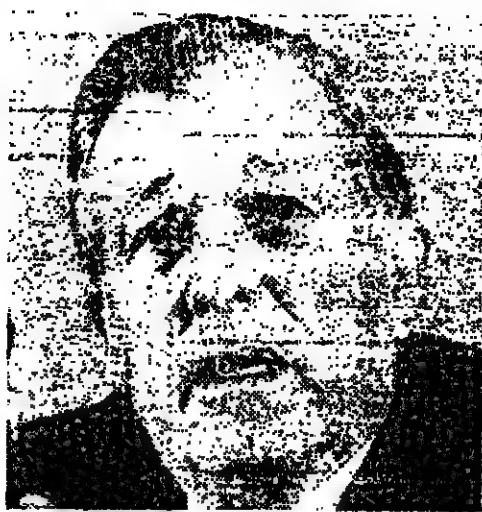
Mr Peter Tapsell, a stockbroker, MP, with Keynesian inclinations, provoked Mrs Thatcher into a blistering denunciation of US deficits after suggesting she might like to endorse the deflationary policies which appeared to have been highly successful in the US. "I would rather be in our position, which is sustainable, than theirs, which I believe will cause great trouble in 12 months," she declared.

Meanwhile, the pound steadied on foreign exchange markets after a flurry of selling on Tuesday and yesterday morning ending the day 5 points down at a new closing low of £1.4415. Its effective index lost 0.4 to 82.5, reflecting earlier losses against European currencies.

Mr Regan, who called on the Prime Minister last night, may have been glad to slip next door to enjoy the hospitality of Mr Nigel Lawson, The Chancellor of the Exchequer, though not a man renowned for pulling his punches, is unlikely to have gone in for the kind of tongue-lashing which Mrs Thatcher earlier indulged in.

Mr Regan said yesterday that it was often forgotten that state and local governments in the US were running big surpluses - about \$65 billion a year - which offset the impact of the \$200 billion federal deficit on capital markets.

This is true enough. But figures for central and local government deficits calculated by the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development still show the US running the biggest budget gap of the five largest industrial economies.



Regan: little hope of cutting budget deficits

Mr Regan held out little hope of cutting budget deficits next year, with the election campaign well underway. The US, he said, was "a nation of selfish interests". But he accepted that something would have to be done for future years, laying the emphasis squarely on the need to cut federal spending and especially social security entitlement programmes.

While undoubtedly realistic, this is cold comfort for Europe. Even if President Reagan runs again and wins, he may not have Congress on his side.

Mr Regan topped his cocktail with a dash of hemlock. The federal government, he said, had no intention of laying down the law on the vexed issue of unitary taxation unless the special commission to examine the matter, now expected to report in late February, failed to come up with an agreeable solution.

This is not what the European and Japanese governments, who believe the commission - heavily weighted towards state interests - is simply an excuse to put off decisions until the elections are over, want to hear. No doubt EEC ministers will say so forcibly to Mr Regan today.

## Going for brokers Greenwell

W Greenwell is expected today to become the fifth leading British stockbroker to announce that outside interests have bought a large stake in his business.

Senior partners Mr Richard Lawson and Mr Gordon Pepper declined to say anything last night but lesser members of the firm was told enough to say: "I've been told there is no statement tonight. There may be something in the morning."

A company with a strong attachment to Greenwell is Mercantile House, which the energetic and visionary Mr John Barkshire has developed from humble money broking into a big broking and fund management group with a powerful presence in London and New York.

It is an obvious candidate for three reasons: Mr Philip Greenwell, the former senior partner who guided the family firm to a place in stockbroking's top six is on the board; the importance of dealing capacity in Mr Barkshire's planning for Mercantile Houses future as an integrated financial services group; and the parallel thinking already evinced by Exco, which has much in common with Mercantile House. Exco sought to buy an interest in brokers Wood Mackenzie, which, like

Greenwell, has come down the field to the front rank in recent years. These two failed, in the end, to agree terms.

For almost 10 years Greenwell's reputation, which in the gilt-edged market is no bettered, has owed much to the monetary forecasting of the sharp-witted and formidably intellectual Mr Pepper. His *Monetary Bulletin* was, for a long period, required reading because of the influence it had in the market.

The 36-member firm is noted for its general research; in the latest survey of research capability it is ranked sixth.

Greenwell has been seen as a likely candidate for ambitious outsiders for some time. Speculation increased when a senior analyst, Mr Keith Sykes departed recently for a rival firm, Scrimgeour, Kemp-Gee.

A Greenwell link would follow investments in Hoare Govett (Security Pacific), Kilkat, Aitken (RTI and Northern), Jobbers Akroyd & Smithers (Mercury Securities) and Vickers da Costa (Citicorp).

## Eagle's VG share offer flops as Allianz talks go on

By Jeremy Warner

Representatives of Allianz Versicherungs, the West German insurance company, yesterday met with Eagle Star directors in an attempt to find a basis for an agreed takeover bid. Allianz has already promised to top a £914m offer for Eagle Star, Britain's sixth largest insurer, made by BAT Industries but has so far been repeatedly spurned by the Eagle Star board which has made clear its preference for BAT.

The Eagle Star board suffered an embarrassing last night when it was disclosed that the offer for sale by tender of shares in the group's high-technology offshoot, V G Instruments, had been a resounding flop.

Of the 12.5 million shares on offer only about half were applied for. At the minimum tender price of 130p a share, VG, is valued at £55m. It is the third tender offer to be under-subscribed within two weeks.



Sir Denis: talks will not be acrimonious

On the takeover front, Sir Denis Mountain, the Eagle Star chairman, is said to be against Allianz at any price but he said that he would be duty bound to recommend the highest offer to his shareholders.

Yesterday's meetings took place at Eagle Star's London headquarters. Allianz was represented by its overseas agents on whether to continue the takeover battle or bow out and take substantial profits on its existing 30 per cent stake in Eagle Star were dismissed by Allianz.

The price of Eagle Star shares in the stock market rose to 714p at one stage yesterday but closed 2p up on the day at 709p. This compares with BAT's last offer of 660p a share and the promise by Allianz to improve on it.

The market continues to believe that the bidding will end eventually at 725p a share, valuing Eagle at about £1 billion.

with the West German company would be acrimonious in any way.

Reports that the Allianz supervisory board was split at a meeting in Munich two weeks ago on whether to continue the takeover battle or bow out and take substantial profits on its existing 30 per cent stake in Eagle Star were dismissed by Allianz.

The price of Eagle Star shares in the stock market rose to 714p at one stage yesterday but closed 2p up on the day at 709p. This compares with BAT's last offer of 660p a share and the promise by Allianz to improve on it.

The market continues to believe that the bidding will end eventually at 725p a share, valuing Eagle at about £1 billion.

## Saudis pressed on output

From David Young, Geneva

Pressure on Saudi Arabia to accept a firm production quota and a continued refusal by Iran to drop its demands for a higher oil price are main obstacles to agreement at the full ministerial meeting of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries in Geneva.

The ministers still hope to reach agreement on prices and production by today. The differences which have emerged during this week's meetings were described yesterday by Dr Mana Saeed al-Otaibi, oil minister of the United Arab Emirates, as "substantial".

There have been growing demands from members that if the production level of 17.5 million barrels agreed in London last March is to be renewed, Saudi Arabia's role must be clarified.

At present it is the only one of the 13 member countries without a fixed quota, acting as a "swing producer" to meet market demand.

Many Opec members believe that the country has been using this to increase its production, but Shaikh Ahmed Zaki Yamani, the Saudi oil minister, said that if the country had taken Opec above its production limit it had done so by only 35,000 barrels.

Shaikh Yamani repeated that Saudi Arabia would keep its price no higher than the present market price of \$29 until the end of 1983.

The country was confident that the upturn in world demand illustrated by America's consumption increase of 800,000 barrels a day would accelerate.

## Saatchi doubles profits

By Jonathan Clare

Saatchi & Saatchi Year to 30.9.83 Pre-tax profit £11.2m (£5.5m) Statutory profit £5.5m (£2.8m) Turnover £253m (£225m) Net total dividend 8.4p (5.8p adj) Share price 550p, up 10p Yield 2.2%

Saatchi & Saatchi, the eighth largest advertising agency in the world and the only British multinational agency, more than doubled its profits last year from £5.5m to £11.2m.

The results benefited directly from the first contribution from British Airways' £25m campaign to attract customers, which has been running since March.

Saatchi said that its role as the Conservative Party's agency in election year did little to improve profits but had brought plenty of free publicity.

Most of the profits growth has come from acquisition, particularly the American Compton Agencies, acquired in July, 1982, which made their first full-year contribution.

A second acquisition, McCaffrey and McCall made a three-month contribution.

Saatchi's proposed quote on the New York stock market is "imminent". The agency plans further expansion in the US, where it already ranks tenth, but is confined to New York.

Margins at Compton have been increased since the acquisition from 1 per cent to 1.5 per cent. The aim is to raise them to the 2 per cent achieved by the other big US agencies within the next two to three years. British margins are about 3 per cent.

Saatchi's long-term aim is to expand into the world's top 10 advertising markets. It is represented in only five at present. Immediate targets include Canada and Japan.

Presentation in the US, which accounts for 50 per cent of worldwide advertising spending, is likely to be in the West Coast and Chicago areas.

## Brooke Bond fights off critics

By Wayne Lintett

The annual meeting of Brooke Bond Group yesterday was once again heavily attended - as much for the afternoon tea that follows as for shareholders seeking fiscal information.

The shareholders, for the sixth successive year, overwhelmingly voted down a moderately worded motion asking Brooke Bond to disclose information on the wages, health and housing conditions of its African and Indian tea plantation workers.

The response of shareholders to the motion, both for and against the motion, but this year the company issued a five-page document explaining its position under the heading "Brooke Bond and The Third World".

The report shows the complexity of disclosing specific local information which, when compared with British conditions, can often show the company in a poor light.

It is for this reason that the chairman, Sir John Cuckney, declines invitations to media debates on the subject, despite many calls for the company to be represented.

Sir John argues that many of the plantations are jointly owned and conditions are often determined by the national governments.

Some of the days when rowdy hippies harangued the directors. On this occasion of short-haired, business-suited young people eloquently argued their case.

They said Brooke Bond was a powerful multi-national that could effectively influence the abysmal conditions in which African and Indian labour works.

Sir John did get time - albeit briefly - to tell shareholders that the trading companies, whose products include PG Tips, Fray Bentos and Oxo, are showing an improved financial performance in the current year.

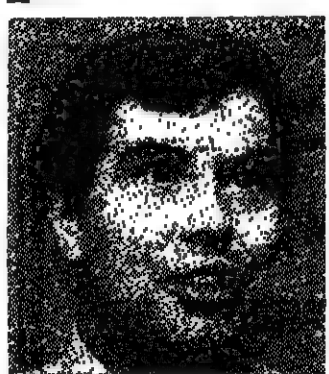
## Hearne likely chief for Enterprise Oil

By Jonathan Davis, Financial Correspondent

The Government has found the man it wants to run Enterprise Oil, the new North Sea exploration and production company which is scheduled to be floated on the stock market next summer as part of the continuing privatization programme.

Mr Graham Hearne, the managing director of Carless Capel Leonard, is expected to be named shortly as Enterprise Oil's chief executive. The appointment follows an extensive search among management in Britain's independent oil companies for the right person to launch the new company as a private sector concern.

Enterprise is the company that Mr Peter Walker, the Secretary of State for Energy, has set up to take over the substantial North Sea oil assets formerly owned by the state-owned British Gas Corporation. Barring another serious fall in oil prices, the flotation is expected in June or July.



Hearne chosen to lead

Provisional estimates are that it could raise £400m for the Treasury.

The Government has been keen to find a relatively young and dynamic British executive with oil industry experience to run Enterprise on a day-to-day basis. A former finance director of Courtaulds, Mr Hearne joined Carless Capel Leonard six months ago after two years as chief executive of Tricentrol.

## Berni Inn for £60m facelift

By Vivien Goldsmith

Berni Inns, which brought steak and chips to the masses in the 1960s with its chain of restaurants, is to have a change of image, in an attempt to attract young customers.

Grand Metropolitan is planning to spend £60m on the restaurants, which suffered a 30 per cent decline in sales since 1979.

The red-plush pub atmosphere will be replaced by a fresh green decor.

More radically, many of the Berni Inn sites will also include one of three new offshoots: The Burgundy Room for a romantic night out; Eleven 11, a lively cocktail bar-style restaurant open from 11 am to 11 pm; and Pastificio, which will feature pasta being prepared within view of the customers.

Something clearly had to be done for Berni to increase its market share and attract more young customers, with falling profits and a return on capital below 10 per cent.

A number of experimental changes have been made with £10m being spent on 25 branch conversions in the year to the end of September.

The branches increased their volume of business by 84 per cent. In five years, Berni intends to have 240 Berni Inns, 80 Burgundy Rooms, 120 to 130 Eleven 11s and 60 Pastificos. It is already the largest licensed restaurant chain in Europe, serving 13.1 million meals a year, a figure it intends to boost to 27 million by 1988.

Berni intends to increase its returns on capital to about 15 per cent with the increase in branch turnover.

The Pastificio chain is the result of deal with Anglo-American Restaurants, which has a chain of pasta American restaurants in the US with the same name.

## Record run continues

The equity market showed few signs of running out of steam yesterday as the FT index kept up its record-breaking performance, closing 6.6 higher at 760.2.

Another set of bumper figures from some of Britain's bigger companies, including BOC, Bass and Great Universal Stores, continued to encourage investors and the lack of sellers again sent share prices soaring.

On foreign exchanges, the pound recovered from its initial weakness, which saw it sink to record low of \$1.4355, to close at \$1.4415, down 5 points.

## STOCK EXCHANGES

FT Index 760.2 up 6.6  
FT 100 Index 83.29 down 0.04  
FT All Shares 488.03 up 4.44  
Bargains: 23, 109  
Datastream USM Leaders Index: 95.92 unchanged  
New York: Dow Jones Industrial Average (latest) 1271.24 down 2.54  
Tokyo: Nikkei Dow Jones Index 9,481.03 up 56.04  
Hongkong: Hang Seng Index 873.88 down 0.50  
Amsterdam: 156.4 up 0.4  
Sydney: AO Index 737.0 up 2.0  
Frankfurt: Commerzbank Index 1025.5 up 0.8  
Brussels: General Index 130.49 up 0.62  
Paris: CAC Index 151.3 up 0.9  
Zurich: SKA General Index 308.40 up 0.50

## CURRENCIES

### LONDON CLOSE

Sterling \$1.4415 down 5pts  
Index 82.5 up 0.8  
DM 3.9450 up 0.0025  
Yfr 11.9725 up 0.0175  
Yfr 337.75 unchanged  
Dollar Index 129.7 up 0.1  
DM 2.7325 unchanged  
NEW YORK LATEST  
Sterling \$1.4420  
Dollar DM 2.7335  
INTERNATIONAL  
ECU 0.574430  
SDRE 0.722413

### INTEREST RATES

Domestic rates:  
Bank base rates 9  
Finance houses base rate 9 1/2  
Discount market loans week fixed 9  
3 month interbank 9 1/4-9 1/2

Euro-currency rates:  
3 month dollar 9 1/4-10 1/4  
3 month DM 6 1/2-6 3/4  
3 month Fr 113-124

US rates  
Bank prime rate 11.00  
Fed funds 9 1/2  
Treasury long bond 100 1/2-100 3/4

ECGD Fixed Rate Sterling Export Finance Scheme IV. Average reference rate for interest period November 2 to December 6, 1983 inclusive: 9.350 per cent.

GOLD  
London fixed (per ounce):  
am \$402 pm \$401  
close \$401.75-402.50 (£278.75-279.25)  
New York (latest): \$401  
Kruggerand (per coin): \$414-415.50 (£287.50-288.25)  
Sovereigns (new): \$94-95 (£65.25-66)  
\*Excludes VAT

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Sarasin 'rescue' for Dunlop

Sarasin International Securities, the financial adviser to a consortium attempting a bid for Dunlop, the beleaguered tyre manufacturer, has cleared the way by which a proposed bid and public quotation could be achieved.

Sarasin said that the Stock Exchange has raised no objections to the proposed plan. This would involve the establishment of a British registered, but unquoted, company whose shares would be sold to American institutions, which are said to be prepared to inject £40m cash.

That company would then make an all-share offer to Dunlop shareholders and if a majority accepted an official listing could be made.

● BOC Group reported pretax profits yesterday of £95.8m, down from £102.6m. The figures masked a strong revival in profits in the second half, and the shares rose 14p to 261p, a record. BOC is planning to offer shareholders a scrip issue alternative to the final dividend.

Investors' Notebook, page 18  
● Shareholders in Stenhouse Holdings, the insurance broker, will be told today by the board whether to accept the controversial £53m offer from its Canadian associate, Reed Stenhouse. Stenhouse Holdings reported profits down from £8.9m to £8.4m yesterday.

● Britain's car output this year will top one million for the first time since 1979. Production in the first 11 months of the year was 20 per cent up on the same period a year ago, at 973,000, the Department of Trade and Industry, said yesterday.  
● European Investment Bank chiefs signed a £10m loan for Short Brothers, the Belfast aircraft manufacturer, yesterday.

## Profit-taking hits Dow

WALL STREET

New York (AP-Dow Jones). - Shares were drifting lower in early trading on the New York Stock Exchange yesterday.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average was about four points lower at 270, and declines were running about seven-to-six ahead of rising stocks.

The Transportation Average was up by nearly 3 points at 612, only a fraction below its record of 612.57, set on November 22. Trading was moderately active, with volume reaching about 32 million shares.

Mr Alfred Harris, a senior vice-president for Josephthal & Co, said: "We're getting a continuation of the profit-taking, tax selling and portfolio adjustments that are typical of late November trading, which means a polling readjustment

that's running behind schedule." International Business Machines was up a point at 119 1/2. General Motors up 1/2 at 75 1/2. Teletype up 1 at 157 1/2. Norfolk Southern up 1 1/2 at 64 1/2. Data General up 1/2 at 34 1/2. Diebold up 1 1/2 at 78 and Time Inc. up 1 1/2 to 65 1/2. Eastman Kodak was 74 1/2, down 1/2. Associated Dry Goods 63 1/2, down 2 1/2. Sun 43 1/2, up 1 1/2. Delta Airlines 42 1/2, up 1/2. Gulf Oil 42 1/2, off 1/2. Cooper Laboratories 29 1/2, down 1 1/2. Maytag 52, off 1 1/2. Cummins Engine 81 1/2, up 1 1/2. American Telephone & Telephone 64, off 1/2.

## Italy likely to relent over import quotas

## Newsprint dispute nears end

A dispute over newsprint supplies, which threatened to cost British newspaper publishers an extra £2m this month, is likely to be settled in Brussels today.

Telephone discussions between Mr Paul Channon, the Trade Minister, and the Italian Industry Minister, Signor Renato Altissimo, are thought to have resolved a row that caused heated exchanges at the EEC's Foreign Affairs Council two weeks ago.

The Italians have been blocking a supplementary quota for duty-free paper imports from Finland and Canada, arguing that they have 20,000 surplus tonnes in Sardinia and that EEC goods must take preference over outside supplies.

The Newspaper Publishers Association has been stressing that Britain is hardest hit, having used up its 1983 duty-free allocation of 1,062,000 tonnes in the middle of last



Channon: talks with Italians about Britain's plight

month. The EEC-wide quota shortage is put at 260,000 tonnes.

Although West German publishers have also used up their allowance, Britain's needs for December are put at between 100,000 and 150,000 tonnes.

The Italians have not actually tried to sell their spare newsprint in Britain and have been told that Fleet Street prefers to use Scandinavian or Canadian paper for its fast-moving machines.

Mr H M Stephen, managing director of the Daily Telegraph and chairman of the Newspaper Raw Materials Committee, said yesterday that the increased duty per tonne would be between £6 and £7.50 for Finnish supplies and between £25 and £30 for those from Canada. "It would mean about an extra £2m on our costs," he said.

Quota increases have always been allowed in previous years.

A meeting of EEC permanent representatives today is likely to sanction an extra 180,000 tonnes, of which 92,645 tonnes would come Britain's way. If the matter spills over to the next Foreign Affairs Council meeting on December 19, the freedom from duty should still apply retrospectively.

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ALAN MCINLOCK  
Chairman

Highlights of the year ended 30th September 1983

- Net asset value increased to 167p per share - up 43%.
- Overseas content increased from 41.6% to 56.5%.
- Japanese content increased from 12.7% to 21.4%.
- Dividend increased for 10th successive year - continuing to outperform the Retail Prices Index.

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YOUR OWN BUSINESS

# MSC training set to get a re-vamp

By Jeremy Warner

The Manpower Services Commission will spend £3.3m on small business and enterprise training this financial year and around £7.7m next.

This is still a small amount by comparison with what is spent by government on other forms of training but it has grown rapidly from small beginnings in 1977 and is still the only form of direct government funding for training in this field.

Unfortunately the four enterprise courses offered by the Manpower Services Commission suffer from a near fatal flaw. They are run under the Training Opportunities Programme which excludes all but a tiny minority of the sort of people to whom small business training might be useful.

To qualify under TOP you must be unemployed, 19 years of age or older and out of full-time education for at least two years. The category of people to whom MSC small business training is available traditionally account for only 1 per cent of the small businesses formed.

The effectiveness of the training and what it offers might also be called into doubt. Two out of three London job centres contacted by The Times were unable to offer any advice on training in the small business field despite the fact that the job centres are expected to provide the main way of promoting the courses.

There is evidence to suggest that some of the polytechnics and business schools which receive funding for small business training regard the MSC as little more than a gravy train while there is a general lack of consistency, standard of content, and direction among the courses offered in different parts of the country.

## Catch-22 for small firms

Several small firms have run into a "Catch-22" problem with the "funded consultancy scheme" operated by the Design Council, but funded by the Department of Trade and Industry. The scheme is designed to help small firms use specialist industrial designers to design new, or update old, products. But the conditions laid down by the DTI specify that a company must employ at least 60 people to be eligible.

The result is that several successful small firms can get no grant until they employ more staff - but dare not take on any more employees until they get help to develop the new product.

## £20,000 prizes from bank

The National Westminster Bank is providing cash prizes of £20,000 in a competition to encourage enterprise among small businesses. The 1984 first prize is 50 per cent higher than this year at £15,000.

The balance of £25,000 will be split between three runners-up. Companies entering the competition must demonstrate successful innovation and show how they would invest the cash in their companies. The competition is organised by Venture Capital Report and is open to small firms.

## MR FRIDAY Ken Rye

"I was rather hoping you'd be an executive of a multi-billion dollar American corporation offering to buy me out."

Ken Rye, 42, is a former executive of a multi-billion dollar American corporation. He is now a small business owner and is looking for a buyer for his company.

## BRIEFING

with less than 50 employees, sales of less than £750,000 and assets of less than £1.5m.

## Call for tax reform

The Government is being urged to reform company tax radically by the Association of Independent Businesses. If the system was changed so that it encouraged businesses that wanted to expand, the inland Revenue would have to spend less time worrying about "evading" schemes, the AIB says.

The AIB's proposals for reform have been submitted to the Inland Revenue and Government ministers and include: relief for real increases in stock, debtors and working capital resulting from business expansion rather than inflation and allowing dividends in private companies against income in the same way as interest on loans in order to encourage equity expansion.

## EEC climate

A study of the environment for small businesses in the ten member states of the European Community has been published. It was carried out by the Economist Intelligence Unit for the United Kingdom Organisation Committee for the European Year of the Small and Medium-Sized Enterprise.

The purpose of the study was to collect comparative information on the legal and economic

environment for small businesses in the Community and attempt to rank these environments in order of favourability to profit maximization by existing small businesses.

## LEA courses for all

The London Enterprise Agency is throwing its small business training courses open to entrepreneurs from all over the country. Previously they had been available to Londoners only.

The courses, which are run in conjunction with the Polytechnic of Central London, are available to entrepreneurs from all over the country. Previously they had been available to Londoners only.

## Co-op sticks

The Co-operative Bank is holding its standard charge for corporate customers for 1984 at current rates - 35p per £100 of debit turnover. The Co-op Bank is the only bank which publishes its business tariffs. Most other banks are likely to suggest higher charges to their business customers next year but the lack of information about tariffs makes comparison difficult.

# Money in those dry-ski slopes

By Judith Stares

Owners of ski slopes might like to consider investing in a boom leisure industry. For a capital outlay of approximately £400,000 it is possible to establish a top-class artificial ski slope which is profitable.

Such an arrangement has been well-proven by the largest dry ski slope in England at Robinwood Hill in Gloucestershire. The area was devoted to farmland, but it is now host to a 250 metre slope used by some 400 skiers a day. The cost per hour for the pleasure of learning how to slide and turn with skill.

Alan Hall is a director and instructor and has been with the Gloucester Ski Centre since its launch in 1976. He now supervises a staff of 11, which includes four instructors. "Dry ski slopes were originally intended for people going away on holiday, to get them going," he explains. "Gradually they have got longer and longer and now we have a generation of skiers using them as a legitimate form of recreation in its own right."

Of the 70 slopes in the UK, approximately 15 are privately owned, and Alan Hall believes that is where the future lies. "The Sports Council estimate that local authorities do not have the kind of money needed to run a slope profitably."

He also believes that it is essential to offer apres-ski conviviality, and floodlight skiing for evening customers.

# One-woman mine detector

By Sally Watts

Offer companies a service that saves them money, and you are in business. This reasoning led Miss Jane Molloy, a former personnel manager in her early thirties with an MBA from Cranfield, to set up her one-woman personnel management consultancy at Teddington, Middlesex.

That was nearly two years ago and her idea has proved itself, partly the result of timing. Today many small employers cannot afford to run a personnel department, and are striving to find their own way through the minefield of ever increasing employment legislation, and having to draw up recruiting advertisements, interview applicants, handle redundancies, cope with staff problems.

By helping companies like these to save time, resolve difficulties and increase their effectiveness, Miss Molloy's own business grew within six months to the point where she received enough work from referrals to keep her busy.

The timing of her own career was equally appropriate. After nearly 10 years' employment experience in personnel work, she put herself through the postgraduate MBA course in order to increase her business, financial and marketing skills. It was only as the course ended that she thought about striking out on her own, and started Independent Personnel Management, a staff advisory service within a business framework.

"At first it was an uphill climb. I knew how to run a company but not how to start one, so I had to work out how to scale everything down to the size of a small consultancy," she recalls. But now her training and experience have come together to give her two complementary sets of skills, as business woman and personnel manager.

"My job is to help management run their business more efficiently. Personnel staff are often traditionally pro-employees. But I have a business school background and I see my role as supporting line management."

For example, small companies cannot afford to "carry" inefficient staff, as larger concerns may, and where necessary Miss Molloy advises them about shedding under-achievers, while also securing fair terms and the right length of notice for departing staff, and helping them towards re-employment.

Although she gives one-off advice when this is asked, her main function is to provide a continuing, external advisory service - cost-effective and independent of involvement in company politics - to employers who are looking for wide-ranging professional skills.

She shows firms how to save hefty sums on training commitments yet make them more effective; represents companies at tribunals, thereby cutting out legal fees; and removes the need for clients to draw on agencies, by providing an advertisement design service.

She has also interviewed job applicants; prevented one very new employee who was signing up three staff members for the first time from using wrongly worded contracts that could have led to unnecessarily high compensation; and, following a merger of two companies, devised and implemented a grading structure for all the computing and administrative jobs.

In her experience, new small firms often overlook the importance of seeing their business from the potential customer's viewpoint.

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## APPOINTMENTS

## General manager at Halifax

Halifax Building Society: Mr David Gilchrist, previously assistant general manager, has become a general manager. He remains responsible for economic and corporate planning. Mr Peter Wood, previously chief inspector, has joined the executive as a secretary and will undertake responsibilities concerning the mortgage and insurance area.

British Home Stores: From January 1, Mr D. P. Cassidy and Mr J. F. Power, who are both directors, to be assistant managing directors, jointly with Mr N. T. Griffin. Mr Cassidy will have responsibility for sales and for the food and restaurant business and Mr Power responsibility for merchandise and finance. Mr C. B. Williams, a divisional director, will be appointed director, store operations.

Morgan Grenfell Property Services: Mr Robert Hannington has been made a director to be responsible for property investment acquisition in the UK and US.

London and Scottish Marine Oil: Sir David Nicolson is now a non-executive director.

Phillips Petroleum: Mr W. W. Allen, operations manager, Ivory Coast Region, will be promoted to chairman and managing director. Phillips Petroleum UK on January 1, W. Vintas Limited: Mr G. E. Jones becomes managing director of the company, a subsidiary of Vintex Group, from January 3, 1984.

C & K Consulting Group: Mrs Rosemary Brown has been appointed director of business development.

TSB England and Wales: Mr Ken Millicap, a senior partner with Arthur Young McClelland Moores & Co. accountants, has been made deputy chairman.

BUPA: Mr R. M. Graham, deputy chief executive, will be acting chief executive from January 1 and will succeed Mr D. V. Damerell as chief executive on the latter's retirement next year.

Alredains Group: Mr Michael Narracott is now chief executive. Mr David Proudlove has retired as managing director and has been made a deputy chairman.

Graham Searjeant examines the implications of this week's Neddy meeting

# Breaking the unemployment impasse

In an unwelcome outbreak of chumminess, Government, TUC and CBI all agreed with Mr John Cassells, director-general of the National Economic Development Office, that this week's long-heralded Neddy meeting on the future for jobs was one of the most constructive on record.

As you would expect in such an atmosphere of accord, none of the parties made any suggestions that are likely to make a rapid dent in Britain's three million recorded unemployment total.

The Government's paper, while making a sober assessment of where new jobs might come from and what might be done to facilitate the process, rested its case on the ability of its broad economic strategy to generate jobs in the long-term by improving the productivity, efficiency, competitiveness and growth of the British economy in a sound and stable financial environment.

"Jobs may be lost in the industries experiencing the greatest productivity advanced", it concedes. But they will be "gained elsewhere in the economy as the higher incomes that come from higher productivity are spent", mainly in the service sector.

The TUC, in its paper, while doubting some of the Government's flirtations with small business and self-employment, came to similar conclusions, though noting, with its different strategy, that "a return to sustainable high growth is an essential precondition for the success of industrial and other supply-side policies and thus for a return to higher levels of employment".

A precondition it may be, but not necessarily a sufficient condition. There are many explanations for Britain's sudden, internationally long and recalcitrant job queues. According to taste, you can cite: the inevitable adjustment of the exchange rate to North Sea oil and its necessary effect on manufacturing; the monetarist combination of high interest and exchange rates that knocked out for more capacity than the trade cycle justified; structural changes to adjust to new technologies abroad and now at home or the long-delayed shake-out of labour

required to achieve the once-and-for-all leap in productivity needed to put Britain back in the hunt.

Whichever explanation is preferred, neither common sense, nor the evidence suggests that a return to sustainable economic growth will do more than allow Britain to return to a normal path of prosperity and job-creation.

That would make little impact on the extra, non-cyclical unemployment, perhaps 1.5 to 2 million, souls, save on the longest perspectives of economic equilibrium.

In essence, what the three differing parties to Neddy agreed was that Britain's high unemployment was but a feature, however unacceptable, of general economic problems, which could be cured only by the working of overall economic strategy even though special attention should be given to smoothing the path of new jobs.

To government, which points to American success in creating jobs, this special attention is mainly a matter of easing rigidities in the labour market and labour mobility to promote rapid adjustment, and partly a cause for extra efforts to help train school leavers and promote new ventures.

To the unions it is predictably a matter of the Government committing itself to output growth through its economic strategy and hence generating sufficient confidence about future demand among industrialists to persuade them to invest.

But the message is essentially the same in denying that unemployment is a separate issue from the future prosperity of the economy. Yet unemployment

## Unemployment has prevented essential tax cuts

ment has now become an economic problem in its own right, which, whatever the strategic view, undermines the recovery of the economy as a whole.

At one level, unemployment has created problems of income distribution. Britain still has a slightly higher proportion of its population working than most

EMPLOYEES IN EMPLOYMENT, GB, 1973, 1979 AND 1983				
	June 1973	June 1979	June 1983	Change in employees 1973-1983
All industries and services	22,180	22,590	20,480	-1,720
Agriculture, forestry & fishing	420	380	340	-80
Mining and quarrying	380	350	310	-50
Manufacturing	7,660	7,050	5,370	-2,290
Construction	1,340	1,250	970	-370
Gas, electricity and water	340	340	320	-20
Service industries	12,060	13,240	13,150	+1,090

Source: Employment Gazette

Note: The 1983 figures include an allowance for the probable understatement of the level of employment, particularly in the service industries, in the basic series.

GROWTH OF SERVICE EMPLOYMENT, GB, 1973-81		
	Employment in June 1981 (employees and self-employed) (millions)	Change 1973-81 (millions)
All services	14.4	+1.2
Of which:		
Transport and communications	1.5	-
Distributive trades	3.2	-
Insurance, banking, finance and business services	1.4	+0.3
Professional and scientific services	3.9	+0.5
Miscellaneous services	3.9	+0.4
Public administration	1.5	-

Source: Employment Gazette

other EEC countries (which on average enjoy a higher standard of living) and much more than Japan, which also enjoys more income per head.

In principle, it would be a boon to achieve greater prosperity without so many of us having to work. But the pattern of job losses has left whole cities and regions with inadequate spending power and, more particularly, millions of individual families as a new poor class.

The need to sustain those left out of our lopsided dash for prosperity has created a more pressing problem of state finances. The excess unemployment alone drains an annual £10 billion or so from the fisc, equivalent to 10p on income tax.

This has prevented tax cuts, an essential part of the Government's supply-side strategy; it has required emergency cuts in public investment (part of the TUC's); and it has focused longer term public spending pressure on health and education, precisely those parts of the public sector which, if the American pattern is to be followed, should be providing growth areas for activity and jobs.

From this national point of view there are clearly three ways of tackling the unemployment problem within the given economic strategy.

Government can help create jobs by distributing public spending to labour intensive areas such as construction or services. It can, to the same end, make labour more attractive to employers by cutting social security and other taxes or by improving vocational training. And it can encourage private investment through the interest rates or tax incentives. But government can also try to

## Short-term crash programme is needed

induce the unemployed to become self-employed and it can help them to leave the labour force altogether, via tax incentives or the traditional standby of emigrating.

There are already a number of encouraging signs. Treasury ministers are now firmly on the defensive over public investment and seem in the process of a change of attitude.

The privatization programme, allied to competition measures is gradually freeing state monopolies from the public borrowing trap. The Youth Training Scheme and wider vocational education initiatives to staunch the flow of unemployed are impressive.

The National Insurance Surcharge is on the way out. Although little thought has yet been given to the more significant burden of mainstream employers' contributions.

Small business promotion is having its effect as the birth rate of new companies starts to outpace the catastrophic death rate.

Self-employment, once down to 1.8 million, has crept up above 2 million though it is still a weak feature of the economy, at about 8 per cent of the population compared with 12.5 per cent for the EEC as a whole or 15 per cent including family workers.

Many married women workers more willing to work than their continental counterparts, have been forced to switch to part-time jobs. The proportion of British families with both spouses in the labour market remains high, but we may be moving to more flexible family combinations of employment, part-time work and self-employment.

On a long perspective, all this may have some effect. But it does not offer any real prospect of government being able to break out of the fiscal trap brought by unemployment. This is not simply a matter of welfare costs and tax losses. Palliative youth training schemes, regional aid, investment incentives all cost billions a year and seem destined to swell the public spending total indefinitely.

Quite apart from ruling out more desirable public spending or tax cuts, this prevents government from sorting out taxes on the low-paid. The poverty trap is now recognized as a big deterrent to employment or self-employment. As the Government's Neddy paper coyly puts it, the economic strategy has provided "conditions for lower taxes and interest rates". But the grind of unemployment costs is stopping the Chancellor from realizing the benefits.

## Industrial notebook

## Why not the Nobel prize for business?

As a sideshow to tomorrow's Nobel award ceremonies in Stockholm and Oslo, the Nobel Foundation has declared today The Day of the Nobel Companies.

There is to be a meeting in Oslo this afternoon of the representatives of a dozen or more concerns which, like Dynamit Nobel, Wica GmbH of Austria, were founded by the explosives magnate, or like Sweden's own AB Bofors, once belonged to him. In between there is our own ICI, whose chairman, Mr John Harvey-Jones will be present, no doubt wearing one of his direct ties.

ICI was founded, after the Swede's death, in a merger instigated by Nobel's British company which, like ICI today, was the world's biggest maker of industrial explosives.

Directing proceedings is the deputy chairman of the Nobel Foundation, Dr Tore Brevdahl, vice-chairman of Svenska Handelsbanken.

It is a meeting at which the "Nobel Heritage" will be discussed gravely but, since it is a private gathering only the participants will emerge any the wiser. The important thing about this conclave, however, is that it is taking place at all.

Alfred Nobel is known as a philanthropist and is remembered, albeit imperfectly, as the inventor of dynamite. In view of the bloody uses to which this and his other explosive inventions subsequently were put, the Nobel Foundation skirts gingerly around his benefactor's industrial achievements.

This is the 150th anniversary of his birth, in what is now central Stockholm. What better year to make a modest proposal that there be a huge Nobel prize, for business or commercial innovation? This would commemorate Nobel's achievements in industrial organization and as a model employer. It might also encourage stronger links between public spirit and business enterprise.

Computers, microchips, pharmaceuticals, name your own idea - all have potential for good and ill, as did Nobel's explosives. His tamed nitroglycerine, the biggest advance in blasting since gunpowder

was introduced in the Middle Ages. He discovered a market for the railway builders and mining engineers of the Americas and of Europe and her empire - but it was the government who turned over his factories to munitions.

And, unlike so many inventors before or since, Nobel saw to it that he reaped the benefit. Since transporting nitroglycerine was dangerous, he made it wherever it was needed. Spurring banks (they let his father go broke) he induced local businessmen to put up the cash and the management, to which he contributed his patents in return for a minority of the shares.

In this way, he quickly built up enterprises in five continents and in so doing became a father of the multi-nationals - another invention that has had a controversial history since.

To introduce another Nobel award, it might be argued, would be to tamper with Nobel's will. But so, too, was what everybody now thinks of as the Nobel Prize for Economics. Nobel, a polymath, left money for awards in the subjects which interested him - chemistry, physics, physiology, medicine, literature. He did not like crooked or grasping business people, didn't like bankers at all and certainly did not think enough of economists to provide for them in his will. But this did not stop the Nobel Foundation, from accepting a new award 14 years ago, which is called, ironically, the Bank of Sweden Prize in Economics in memory of Nobel.

Remembering that business underlies everything in national life, the 1919 Nobel Peace laureate Woodrow Wilson went on to observe that the first petition in the Lord's Prayer is for our daily bread. Is it not odd that, in memorializing Alfred Nobel himself, inventor, industrial innovator, good employer, the foundation should choose a prize in economics rather than business, thus dignifying not the means by which we get our daily bread, but our squabbles about who should have the biggest slice?

Ross Davies



Other presents pale beside it.

NOTHING ELSE MEASURES UP TO JOHNNIE WALKER BLACK LABEL



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## MARKET REPORT by Michael Clark

### Sohio visit bolsters BP

ACCOUNT DAY: Dealings began, Nov 28. Dealings end, Dec 9. Contango Day, Dec 12. Settlement Day, Dec 15.

£500m to BP's total profits of £716m, and during the first nine months of the current year figure had reached £450m. However, it now looks as though BP's profits will eventually have to be written off at least half of the £400m.

Phoenix Assurance continued to edge nearer to its 3p to 38p yesterday. Hopes are higher that once the battle for control of Eagle Star is resolved, Phoenix will be the next composite to come under the hammer. Dealers are talking of a bid of about 500p a share.

The rest of the oil sector put up a better performance, despite of Opec crisis in Geneva, where a split has developed over price and production levels. Shell recovered 10p to 570p, while Barmah added 1p to 166p.

The rest of the equity market showed few signs of faltering on its record-breaking run as a lack of sellers continued to drive prices higher in the thin conditions. The FT index closed just below its best level of the day, 6.6 up at a record 760.2 with one day of the account left.

Dealers reported plenty of new time demand for the bid situations, but generally interest remained selective. Gilts showed mixed movements, with prices at the shorter end almost unchanged as the pound staged a small rally on the foreign exchange markets to close 65 points higher at \$1.4420, having hit a record low during the day.

Among the composite insurers, Commercial Union denied reports it had received an approach from one of the big US conglomerates which had pushed up the share price 3p to 186p. A spokesman said: "We are not the subject of a bid."

But the weak pound was good news for the insurance brokers. C E Heath was 10p higher at 352p, Minet Holdings 3p to 186p. A spokesman said: "We are not the subject of a bid."

Analysts were last night trying to gauge the effects of government actions to try to limit the profits for drug companies from sales to the National Health Service. The measures, expected to save the Government more than £100m a year, are likely to be bad news for Boots, which in its interim figures made a clawback provision of £6m for its sales to the health service. Last night the shares closed 4p higher at 181p.

139p. Sedgwick Group rose 1p to 338p, Stewart Wrightson up 10p to 276p and Willis Faber 10p higher at 655p. Queens Moat Houses has confirmed its intention of raising £15m by placing of first mortgage debenture stock 2013 secured on 10 of its hotels and the Heybridge banqueting centre. The stock is being issued at 107p above the Treasury 13% per cent 2004/08. The proceeds will go to reduce borrowings. Shares of Queens Moat were unchanged at 35p.

NME Facilities, which provides production facilities for the broadcasting, television and video industries, made a modest start to dealings on the Unlisted Securities Market. The 2 million shares placed by the company, James Capel at 40p opened at 41p, but closed unchanged at 40p, valuing the entire company at £2.7m. NME is jointly owned by Greenstar Leisure and Mike Mansfield Enterprises which continue to hold 54 per cent of the remaining shares between them.

Shares of Miss Debbie Moore's Pinnacle Dance Studio has slipped 1p to 101p, while the paid ahead 1p to 5p ahead of next expected next week, that the group is set to take part in a joint venture with the business expansion funds of Charterhouse and Electra Investments.

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against the Provisional Order  
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 matters and violated to conditions  
 of which may be imposed at the  
 procedure subsequent to the deposit  
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 of Parliament, apply to such bill  
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 DORINA Ltd. Voluntary  
 The Companies Act 1948  
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 1984 the following persons  
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 of Seal at 18 Deacons  
 Street, West End, E.C.4  
 the Liquidator of the said Com-  
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 by the said Liquidator to come  
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 the day of December 1983  
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 shall be deemed to have assented  
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 of this first day of December,  
 1983.  
 R A SEAL  
 Liquidator.

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## CHOICE

admirable zest by Rita Wolf, who has her own father's attempts to introduce her to a highly eligible Asian entrepreneur, preferring instead to pursue a stage career. Director Jon Amiel is doubly blessed with Saeed Jaffrey as the way but understanding father, trying to instill a respect for eastern traditions, while he too chases western values and social status. The moral uncertainty and cultural confusion he shares with his anglophobic daughter are deftly drawn by Chiro with warmth and subtle humour.

● Sir John Pritchard conducts the BBC Symphony Orchestra and Chorus in HONORE ADRIAN BOULT (Radio 3, 7.30pm), a concert relay from the Royal Festival Hall marking the passing of the great conductor.

10.00 Arnold Bax Centenary: Dennis Sweeney (radio) and Sweeney Swallow (piano) play the Violin Sonata No. 3.

10.30 Usher Orchestras conducted by Barry Wordsworth: Overture, O'Brien's Overture, and Stanford's Symphony in F minor, Op. 28 (the Irish).

11.25 William Walton: Suite of the Early Tudor Court, by Sherrington, Phillips, Comyns and Cooper.

12.10 BBC Philharmonic Orchestra at the Bratislava Festival: with Edward Gratch (violin) and Natalia Sachkova (cello).

1.00 10.00 to 10.30: Concerto in A minor for violin, cello and orchestra.

1.05 BBC Continents: Foreign radio.

1.20 BBC Philharmonic Concert: part two, Dvorak's Symphony No. 6.

2.10 Schubert piano recital by Martin Tring, with a selection of his music.

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## Radio 4

6.00 News Briefing.

6.10 Farming Today featuring the Royal Smithfield Show, London.

6.20 Shipping Forecast.

6.30 Forecast, 12.30, 6.30 News Summary, 6.45 Prayer for the Day, 6.55, 7.55 Weather.

7.00, 8.00 Today's News, 7.25, 8.25 Sport, 7.45 Thought for the Day, 8.55 Your Letters.

9.00 News, 9.05, 9.10, 9.15, 9.20, 9.25, 9.30, 9.35, 9.40, 9.45, 9.50, 9.55, 10.00, 10.05, 10.10, 10.15, 10.20, 10.25, 10.30, 10.35, 10.40, 10.45, 10.50, 10.55, 11.00, 11.05, 11.10, 11.15, 11.20, 11.25, 11.30, 11.35, 11.40, 11.45, 11.50, 11.55, 12.00, 12.05, 12.10, 12.15, 12.20, 12.25, 12.30, 12.35, 12.40, 12.45, 12.50, 12.55, 13.00, 13.05, 13.10, 13.15, 13.20, 13.25, 13.30, 13.35, 13.40, 13.45, 13.50, 13.55, 14.00, 14.05, 14.10, 14.15, 14.20, 14.25, 14.30, 14.35, 14.40, 14.45, 14.50, 14.55, 15.00, 15.05, 15.10, 15.15, 15.20, 15.25, 15.30, 15.35, 15.40, 15.45, 15.50, 15.55, 16.00, 16.05, 16.10, 16.15, 16.20, 16.25, 16.30, 16.35, 16.40, 16.45, 16.50, 16.55, 17.00, 17.05, 17.10, 17.15, 17.20, 17.25, 17.30, 17.35, 17.40, 17.45, 17.50, 17.55, 18.00, 18.05, 18.10, 18.15, 18.20, 18.25, 18.30, 18.35, 18.40, 18.45, 18.50, 18.55, 19.00, 19.05, 19.10, 19.15, 19.20, 19.25, 19.30, 19.35, 19.40, 19.45, 19.50, 19.55, 20.00, 20.05, 20.10, 20.15, 20.20, 20.25, 20.30, 20.35, 20.40, 20.45, 20.50, 20.55, 21.00, 21.05, 21.10, 21.15, 21.20, 21.25, 21.30, 21.35, 21.40, 21.45, 21.50, 21.55, 22.00, 22.05, 22.10, 22.15, 22.20, 22.25, 22.30, 22.35, 22.40, 22.45, 22.50, 22.55, 23.00, 23.05, 23.10, 23.15, 23.20, 23.25, 23.30, 23.35, 23.40, 23.45, 23.50, 23.55, 24.00.

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# Request by Syria for Soviet troops

Continued from page 1

attackers - Shia Muslims in the slums of Hama and Druze militiamen in the mountains to the east - with tank rounds and Dragon anti-tank missiles.

At least two buildings apparently used by snipers were destroyed by Marine gunfire, and one report said that a group of Shia Muslim militiamen later raised a white flag to stop the fighting.

Meanwhile in Tripoli, in northern Lebanon, Palestinian officials loyal to Mr Yasser Arafat implied that French and Italian warships may escort the four Greek vessels that are to evacuate up to 4,000 PLO guerrillas from the city. The Palestinians will sail under a United Nations flag but now fear that the Israelis will try to intercept the little fleet after the PLO's claim of responsibility for the bombing of a bus in Jerusalem this week in which four civilians, including two children, were killed.

# US to lift Argentine arms ban

Continued from page 1

Nato ministerial council session in Brussels.

Arms embargoes were imposed on both Argentina and Chile during the Carter Administration because of the serious human rights violations taking place in both countries.

Although Congress approved a request by the Reagan Administration in 1981 for the arms embargo on Argentina to be lifted, this was done on condition that the President certified that the Buenos Aires Government was making progress in human rights.

The State Department cited seven areas where there had been improvement in human rights in Argentina, including the holding of free elections, release of political prisoners, lifting of restriction of political parties, trades unions and the press and an ending of the state of siege.

But he said one major human rights issue still to be resolved involved Argentina's failure to account for the thousands of people who disappeared during the "dirty war" under earlier military dictatorships.

# Deserted village mourns vanishing bus

Even now the devastation is begun, And half the business of destruction done; Even now, methinks, as pondering here I stand, I see the rural virtues leave the land.

The Deserted Village by Oliver Goldsmith

By Michael Horsnell

The roses will bloom as usual next summer in cottage gardens in the Norfolk village of Swanton Morley but if the Council for the Protection of Rural England is right, more as a memorial than a demonstration of the virtues of country life.

The village (population about 1,500), from which Abraham Lincoln's ancestors emigrated to America in 1637, is, according to many of its inhabitants as well as the CPRE, facing its demise as a thriving community.

Swanton Morley is one of 72 Norfolk villages threatened with losing its bus service, a vital link to the market town of Dereham, four miles away, which provides shops, doctors, a hospital and schooling for its country cousins.

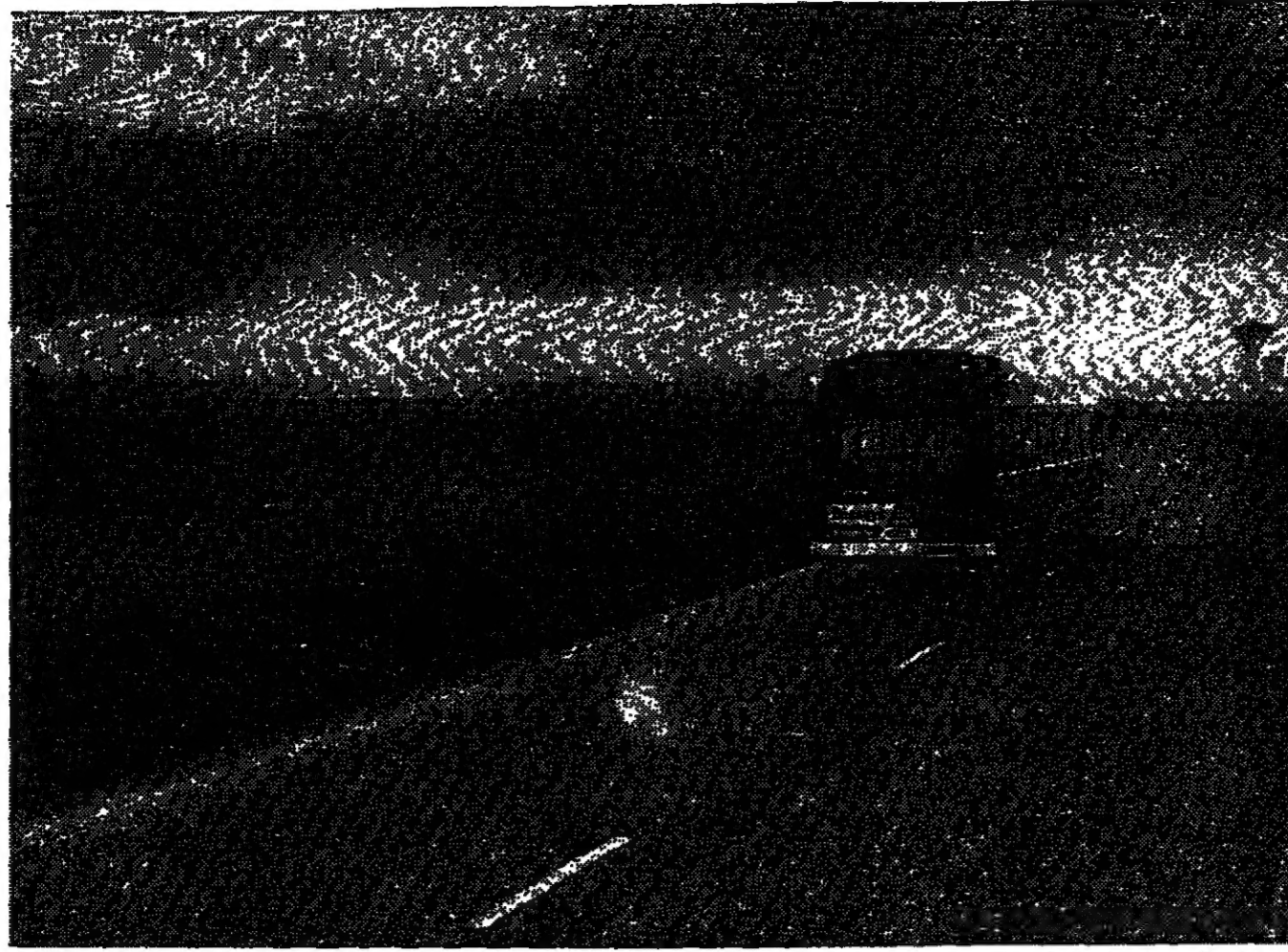
About a third of the villagers have no car and more than half have only limited access to one (when the breadwinner is not using it to drive to work), so that many people depend on the bus's five daily trips to Dereham and weekly service to Norwich.

Next week Norfolk county council is expected to ratify its transport sub-committee's decision to limit its subsidy to the Eastern Counties Omnibus Company to £500,000 a year. Eastern Counties says it needs £1.3m to maintain present services and adds that as well as the 72 villages losing their buses, another 50 will be deprived of commuter services, with the loss of 85 jobs in all.

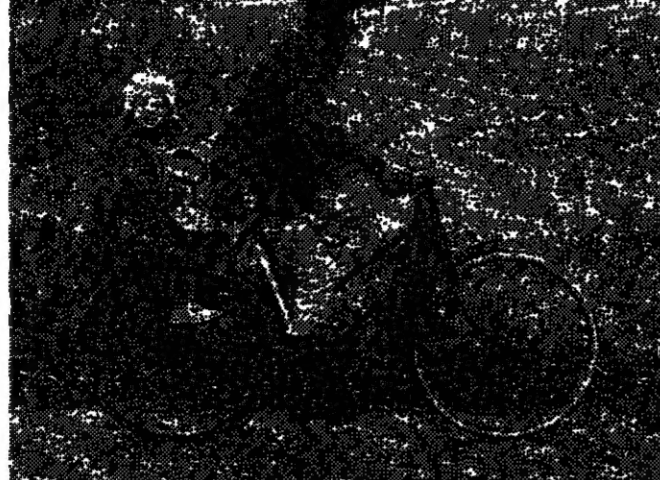
Council chiefs say they hope private operators and community buses will fill some of the gaps, but Mr Dawson Williams, general manager of Eastern Counties, dismisses this as a forlorn hope.

He said: "Previous cuts in passenger miles have not been taken over by private operators and neither would they this time. We cannot keep up loss-making services, so communities will find themselves deprived and isolated."

A meeting at the House of Commons between Eastern Counties executives and Norfolk's eight Conservative MPs earlier this week, failed to inspire any promises of parliamentary support, so the last bus to Swanton Morley will arrive at the village Post Office from Dereham at 14.46 on New Year's Eve.



Disappearing into the sunset: the faded bus from Swanton Morley to Norwich (above) and Mrs Louise Battle (left), who is worrying about having to use her bicycle



NORFOLK'S VANISHING BUSES. Areas, villages and towns losing all service. Heavily reduced service. Services retained or reduced. 10 miles.

from Dereham at 14.46 on New Year's Eve. "It is ridiculous", Mrs Peggy Carrick, president of the local Friendship Club for the over 60s said. "The bus service is so important because not everyone has a car and an old person cannot walk four miles to Dereham to see the doctor. Some people will really be isolated."

small shops, two public houses and a primary school, is probably facing its greatest crisis since modern farming techniques deprived many of its livelihood of their labour in the fields. Villagers want to know why Norfolk is prepared to spend only £1.44 per person a year on transport subsidies, compared with a national average of £3.15.

# Frank Johnson in the Commons

# It's that word again on the wireless

Mrs Margaret Thatcher yesterday shocked people listening to Prime Minister's questions on the radio by using THAT word, the word: fascist.

Until her outburst the word had been considered so boring that it can only be used on Channel 4. Even then, it is confined to documentary programmes and discussions about virtually any country allied to the United States. Normally it is only used when any children who might be potential viewers are asleep.

So boring are such programmes, however, that many adults who might be potential viewers are often asleep too. The word escaped Mrs Thatcher's lips when Mr Fergus Montgomery, one of her backbenchers, asked her whether she had noted "the disgraceful scenes by a left wing rent-a-mob to prevent a coalition of Conservatives and Liberals taking control (at a meeting of the council of the London Borough of Brent the night before). As the Leader of the Opposition said so long of order because Mr Ashton had not mentioned Enfield, will he now condemn violence by members of his party in Brent?"

In reply, the Prime Minister, in condemning the violence, referred to "the fascist left".

Admirable though her sentiments no doubt were, it was said to hear her using the word which her opponents had made the most tedious in the language. Presumably she thought it great fun to use against the left the word that the left had for years used against the Army, the police, the Israelis, the headmasters' conference and herself. But it was very boring of her none the less.

A few moments later, Mrs Thatcher used the word again. Neither Mr Montgomery nor herself had succeeded in getting a condemnation of the scenes at Brent out of Mr Kinnoch. The Leader of the Opposition rose, but only to change the subject. He asked a routine question about the economy. She gave a routine answer. In due course, another Tory, Mr Timothy Eggar, said that his constituents would take Mr Kinnoch's silence "as condoning the actions last night".

The events in Brent were a disgrace to democracy", the Prime Minister replied. Then, remembering that it had gone down very well with her backbenchers the first time, she added that the events were also "a reflection of the true nature of the fascist left".

Later, Mr Joseph Ashton, the Labour backbencher, sought to put a question about Mr David Hart. He had written an article in *The Times* about the need to "privatise" the National Health Service. The paper had described him as "a political adviser". Mr Ashton said that he was a political adviser to the Prime Minister.

What was she doing consulting with a political adviser who wanted to do such a terrible thing, was the gist of her question. Furthermore, Mr Hart had once gone bankrupt. By a leap of logic, Mr Ashton seemed to be arguing that this disqualified him from saying anything right about the National Health Service.

At least, this seemed to be the point that Mr Ashton was making. But the Speaker interrupted him to say that his question was out of order. It emerged that it was out of order because Mr Ashton had not mentioned Enfield. Mr Ashton looked baffled.

Labour members shouted advice to him as to how to get his question into order. Mr Ashton looked more baffled. Tories shouted to him to sit down. Mr Ashton protested to the Speaker.

After a while we all realized that technically we were on a question asking Mrs Thatcher to pay a visit to Enfield North (Mr Eggar's constituency). By the time this was sorted out, we had run out of time for Prime Minister's questions.

Mr Ashton protested that the Tories had prevented him, by their noise, from asking about the future of Enfield's service workers. Enfield's Mr Hart had had this Mr Ashton as his adviser (an ingenious recovery). The Speaker said that, even though the time had run out, he would allow him to put the question because it was Christmas (a surrealist touch).

Mr Ashton put the question again, but by that time we had all lost interest. Inevitably, at some point in these exchanges, members started shouting at the Tories: "Fascist right!"

Some of us fell to wondering what of the ordinary, decent, hard-working segment of British opinion represented by the fascist centre?

# THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

## Today's events

**Royal engagements**  
Princess Anne, Colonel in Chief, Royal Signals, attends a briefing at the School of Signals, Blandford Camp, Dorset, 10.  
**New exhibitions**  
French prints and drawings, Art Gallery and Museum, Kelvingrove, Glasgow, Mon to Sat 10 to 5, Sun 2 to 5 (ends Jan 8).  
Recent work by Gerald Gadd: Landscapes, Geoffrey Hubbard: Maritime, Frances Crippwell and

Maura Williams: Flora and fauna, Gallery 45, 45/46 Bridge Street, Hereford, Mon to Sat 10 to 5.30, closed Sun (ends Dec 24).  
**Music**  
Concert by the Farnaby Brass Ensemble, West Oxfordshire Technical College, Witney, Oxfordshire, 7.45.  
Concert by the students from the Royal College of Music, North Kensington Music Club, Usher Gallery, Lindum Road, Lincoln, 7.30.

## Carol Services

Christmas concert by the York Concert Orchestra, St Sampson's Church, Church Street, York, 7.30.  
Christmas concert by the Doncaster Schools' Concert Band, William Appleby Music Centre, Donum Road, Doncaster, 7.  
Christmas concert by New Opera Group, Friends Meeting House, Harbottle, Sheffield, 30.  
People's Carol Service with the Greater Manchester Police Band, St Ann's Church, Manchester, 1.15.

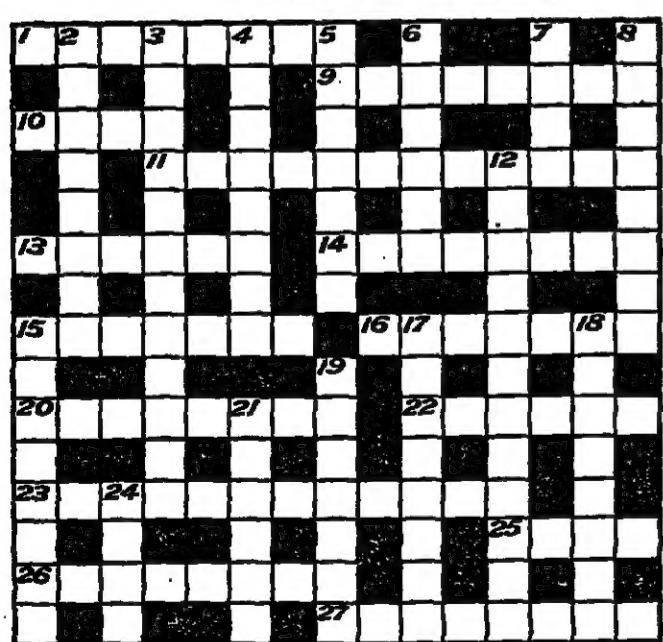
## General

Southern Country Craft Market, the Assembly Hall, Taunbridge, Wells, 10 to 4.  
Seventh Annual Edinburgh Winter Antiques Fair, Roxburgh Hotel, Charlotte Square, Edinburgh, 11 to 8, tomorrow 11 to 5.

## Exhibitions in progress

Picture Derby - photographs of Derby from 1900 to 1983, Derby Museum and Art Gallery, The Strand, Derby, Tues to Sat 10 to 5, closed Sun and Mon (ends Dec 30).  
Costume Designs by Clive Hicks-Jenkins for the New Theatre production of the pantomime *Humpty Dumpty*, Newport Museum and Art Gallery, John Frost Square, Newport, Gwent, Mon to Thurs 10 to 5.30, Fri 10 to 4.30, Sat 9.40 to 4, closed Sun (ends Feb 4).  
Sainsbury's Images for Today: Winners of competition for British artists, Cartwright Hall, Lister Park, Bradford, Tues to Sun 10 to 5, closed Mon (ends Jan 8).  
Works by Welsh artists, Oriel Welsh Arts Council Gallery, 53 Charles Street, Cardiff, Mon to Sat 9 to 5.30, closed Sun (ends Jan 7).  
A collection of Christmas - original and rare work by English artists and craftsmen (inc. special toys), Falcon House Gallery, Swan Street, Bedford, Suffolk, Tues to Sat 10.30 to 6, Sun 2 to 6, closed Mon (ends Jan 23).

## The Times Crossword Puzzle No 16,305



## ACROSS

- 1 Question scope for drinking in Bath, for example (4-4).
- 9 Go-ahead king follows new call (3-5).
- 10 One of the mild folk in Scotland (4).
- 11 Prunella comes to cock-fight concealed by line of bushes (5-7).
- 13 Poor liar to be source of intelligence for Skylock (6).
- 14 Give new meaning to time-worn advice - excellent! (8).
- 15 Servicewoman has a way with the old invader (7).
- 16 Start to advance with Brown and his school-friend side by side (7).
- 20 This Society bears mark of its foreign urban origin (3, 5).
- 21 Dig up the old philosopher (6).
- 23 Libel Green at odds with church militancy (12).
- 25 Make cash payment on this (4).
- 26 Man of no importance may change direction - on engagement! (3-5).
- 27 Joined up loose tiles in the end (8).

- 5 Formed illegal army in Portuguese territory (7).
- 6 Went off by toboggan, skirting rising river (6).
- 7 Look out for one said to be a mole (4).
- 8 Hill-top route may be intimidating (8).
- 12 Snacks for 4th Sunday in Lent (12).
- 15 Tough defender of book bound to endure (8).
- 17 Plant from French well raised in Los Angeles set-up (8).
- 18 Once a Staff Officer met me holding one! (8).
- 19 Real USA product, like a straight-edge normally (2, 1-4).
- 21 Make Giro transfer over two quarters with wild parties (6).
- 24 Book ring's trade mark (4).

Solution of Puzzle No 16,304

**ACROSS**  
1 BATH, 9 KING, 10 SCOT, 11 PRUN, 13 LIE, 14 GIVE, 15 SER, 16 BROWN, 20 SOCI, 21 DIG, 23 LIBEL, 25 PAY, 26 MAN, 27 JOINED.  
**DOWN**  
5 ARMY, 6 RIVER, 7 MOLE, 8 HILL, 12 SNACK, 15 DEF, 17 PLANT, 18 OFFIC, 19 USA, 21 GIRO, 24 BOOK.

Prize Crossword in The Times tomorrow  
CONCISE CROSSWORD PAGE 12

## Last posting

The Post Office recommends Saturday, December 17 as the last posting date for second class mail and parcels, and Tuesday, December 20 for first class. British Telecom remind subscribers that calls at Christmas to Australia, New Zealand, Hongkong and other countries in the Far East and the Pacific will only be on the cheaper rate between 3pm and 6pm, when a 10-minute call will cost £7.44. At all other times the standard rate applies.

## Anniversaries

Births: John Milton, London, 1608; Johann Winckelmann, art historian, Stendal, Germany, 1717; George Grossmith, comedian, singer and author, with Woodie Grossmith, of *Diary of a Nobody*, London, 1847; Joseph Stalin (new style Dec 21), Gori, Georgia, Transcaucasia, 1879.

## Parliament today

Commons (9.30): Sex Equality Bill, second reading.

## Food prices

Over the past 5 years consumption of exotic fruit and vegetables has risen enormously, according to the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Information Bureau. Since 1978 imports of avocados have risen by 89 per cent, mangoes by 115 per cent and pawpaws by 259 per cent. Prices have risen accordingly. Avocados 25-50p each, kiwi fruit 20-28p, mangoes 70p-£1, small pineapples 50-80p. Shari-fruit from Israel, a non-stringent version of the persimmon, which can be eaten with skin, sell at 20-26p each. Spanish almonds grapes, at 34-40p a lb, are cheapest of the four varieties around. Kumquats from Morocco and Carmel, a grape-size citrus fruit, are £1.50-£2.00 a lb. Jerusalem artichokes at 30-40p a lb, asparagus from 50-60p a lb, fennel at 35-45p a lb, are all good buys.

Beef prices remain steady - with topside, silverside and thick flank £1.90-£2.30 a lb and a boneless brisket £1.52-£1.65 a lb. Pork prices are similar to last week's, with a shoulder 92p-£1.30 and loin chops £1.18-£1.39 a lb. Although lamb prices are higher this week as supplies are reduced, they are cheaper than at this time last year. Whole legs range from £1.48-£1.60 a lb. Whole shoulders are 84p-£1.00 a lb and loin chops £1.34-£1.88.

Marx & Spencer have reduced the price of their chicken packs - drums, thighs and breast - by 10 pence a lb. Their fresh and frozen turkeys are 89 pence a lb. They also have a collection of Christmas turkeys stuffed with fresh chestnuts and weighing 3lb-5½lb, for £1.89 a lb. Dewhursts have duck at 74 pence a pound for birds up to 4½ lb and 78 pence a pound for heavier birds. They also have fresh turkeys and geese and customers are advised to order now for Christmas.

## The Papers

Hiding behind Congress, the Reagan Administration has again rejected plans to increase America's aid to the poorest countries, the New York Times points out. At negotiations in Paris about expanding the International Development Association, the World Bank's soft-loan affiliate, the United States has decided to offer \$750m a year for three years. The paper says: "That is slightly less than it contributed over the last four years, and much less than is needed. Since its creation in 1979, this valuable agency has loaned \$30 billion to dozens of desperate countries, but up to 80 years at no interest. Its clients are the poorest of the poor, nations with per capita incomes of less than \$730 a year. Their needs are so great and the need for aid is so urgent that they cannot afford conventional loans. India was long sustained by IDA loans until it could feed itself. Marking the United States as the poorest of that magnitude, the Carter Administration pledged \$3.2 billion over three years. President Reagan stretched that over four years, reducing contributions to \$800m a year. Some of the 32 other sponsor governments made up the shortfall, but expressed their contempt for America's stinginess by baring its use for the purchase of American goods."

## Roads

Midlands: A14: Lane closures on Huntingdon bypass. A45: Roadworks on Coventry - Daventry road at Fosse Crossing, Warwickshire. A47: Temporary signals at eastern end of Dereham bypass.

Wales and West: M4: Lane closures at junction 32 (Cardiff) and junction 34 (Llantrisant); delays. M4: Lane closures for bridge inspection and repairs between junction 21 and junction 22 across the Severn Bridge, affecting both carriageways. A368: Traffic restrictions on West Harptree - Churchill road at Burringtoncombe.

North: A628: Temporary signals at Woodhouse, north of end of Glossop, Derbyshire. A19: One-way westbound at Mandale interchange, Middlebrough, Haythorpe Drive to Levens Crescent; diversion. A1: Felton bypass on River Coquet, Northumberland, closes northbound; only one lane open with temporary traffic signals.

Scotland: A72: Single-lane traffic with lights west of A703 junction at Peebles. A94: Single-lane traffic in Couper Angus. A7: Single-lane traffic with lights at junction with A699, south side of Selkirk.

Information supplied by AA

## Top films

Top box office films in London:  
1 The Jungle Book/Mickey's Christmas Carol  
2 Rear Window  
3 La Traviata  
4 Videodrome  
5 Outcast  
6 Educating Rita  
7 Zelig  
8 Baywatch  
9 Cui  
10 Finally Sunday!

Top five in the provinces:  
1 Star Chamber  
2 The Untouchables  
3 War Games  
4 Tootsie/Kramer vs. Kramer  
5 Educating Rita

Compiled by Screen International

## The pound

	Bank	Bank
	Buyers	Sellers
Australia \$	1.56	1.56
Austria Sch	28.80	27.20
Belgium Fr	33.58	79.50
Canada \$	1.85	1.78
Denmark Kr	8.78	8.31
Finland Mk	22.26	11.76
France Fr	4.08	3.89
Germany DM	161.00	151.00
Greece Dr	11.60	1.56
Italy Lira	2450.00	2340.00
Japan Yen	351.00	333.00
Netherlands Gld	11.45	10.85
Norway Kr	197.00	187.00
Portugal Esc	1.80	1.67
Spain Ptas	213.75	223.75
Sweden Kr	12.00	11.40
Switzerland Fr	3.27	3.10
USA \$	1.48	1.43
Yugoslavia Dnr	219.80	209.00

Bank of England discount rate, bank rates are supplied by Barclays Bank International Ltd. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques and other foreign currency business.

Retail Price Index: 340.7.  
London: The FT index closed up 6.6 at 760.2.

## Weather

A depression will cross Northern England overnight with a cold, showery northerly airstream becoming established over the United Kingdom.

### 6 am to midnight

London, SE, E England, East Angles: Mainly cloudy, rain drying off, bright intervals with showers turning to snow later; wind N fresh becoming strong; max temp 5C to 7C (41-45F).

Central S, SW, central N England, E W Midlands, Channel Islands, Isle of Man, SW Scotland, Glasgow, Argyll, Northern Ireland: Rather cloudy, showers turning wintry with some sunny intervals developing; wind N fresh to strong; max temp 5C (41F).

NE England, Borders, Edinburgh, Dundee, Aberdeen, central Highlands, Moray Firth, NE, NW Scotland, Orkney, Shetland: Some bright intervals, snow showers, prolonged intervals with drifting; wind NE strong to gale; max temp 2C to 3C (36-37F).

Outlook for tomorrow and Sunday: Snow showers on Saturday drying out overnight; further outbursts of sleet or snow spreading from W on Sunday. Remaining cold generally.

SEA PASSAGES: S North Sea: Wind SW veering NW strong or gale; sea rough or very rough. Straits of Dover, English Channel (E): Wind SW strong or gale veering NW decreasing fresh; sea very rough becoming moderate. Celtic Channel, Irish Sea: Wind N fresh or strong locally gale; sea moderate to very rough.

Sun rises: 8.58 am, sets: 3.52 pm.  
Moon rises: 11.58 am, sets: 12.27 pm.  
First Quarter December 12.

### Lighting-up time

London: 4.22 pm to 7.04 am.  
Bristol: 4.22 pm to 7.04 am.  
Edinburgh: 4.05 pm to 6.52 am.  
Manchester: 4.20 pm to 7.42 am.  
Penzance: 4.50 pm to 7.40 am.

### London

Yesterday: Temp: max 8 am to 6 pm, 11C (52F); min 6 pm to 6 am, 5C (41F); Humidity: 65 per cent. Rain: 2.6mm to 6 pm, 0.3mm. Sea: 2.0m to 3.0m, 4.0m to 5.0m, 6.0m to 7.0m, 8.0m to 9.0m, 10.0m to 11.0m, 12.0m to 13.0m, 14.0m to 15.0m, 16.0m to 17.0m, 18.0m to 19.0m, 20.0m to 21.0m, 22.0m to 23.0m, 24.0m to 25.0m, 26.0m to 27.0m, 28.0m to 29.0m, 30.0m to 31.0m, 32.0m to 33.0m, 34.0m to 35.0m, 36.0m to 37.0m, 38.0m to 39.0m, 40.0m to 41.0m, 42.0m to 43.0m, 44.0m to 45.0m, 46.0m to 47.0m, 48.0m to 49.0m, 50.0m to 51.0m, 52.0m to 53.0m, 54.0m to 55.0m, 56.0m to 57.0m, 58.0m to 59.0m, 60.0m to 61.0m, 62.0m to 63.0m, 64.0m to 65.0m, 66.0m to 67.0m, 68.0m to 69.0m, 70.0m to 71.0m, 72.0m to 73.0m, 74.0m to 75.0m, 76.0m to 77.0m, 78.0m to 79.0m, 80.0m to 81.0m, 82.0m to 83.0m, 84.0m to 85.0m, 86.0m to 87.0m, 88.0m to 89.0m, 90.0m to 91.0m, 92.0m to 93.0m, 94.0m to 95.0m, 96.0m to 97.0m, 98.0m to 99.0m, 100.0m to 101.0m, 102.0m to 103.0m, 104.0m to 105.0m, 106.0m to 107.0m, 108.0m to 109.0m, 110.0m to 111.0m, 112.0m to 113.0m, 114.0m to 115.0m, 116.0m to 117.0m, 118.0m to 119.0m, 120.0m to 121.0m, 122.0m to 123.0m, 124.0m to 125.0m, 126.0m to 127.0m, 128.0m to 129.0m, 130.0m to 131.0m, 132.0m to 133.0m, 134.0m to 135.0m, 136.0m to 137.0m, 138.0m to 139.0m, 140.0m to 141.0m, 142.0m to 143.0m, 144.0m to 145.0m, 146.0m to 147.0m, 148.0m to 149.0m, 150.0m to 151.0m, 152.0m to 153.0m, 154.0m to 155.0m, 156.0m to 157.0m, 158.0m to 159.0m, 160.0m to 161.0m, 162.0m to 163.0m, 164.0m to 165.0m, 166.0m to 167.0m, 168.0m to 169.0m, 170.0m to 171.0m, 172.0m to 173.0m, 174.0m to 175.0m, 176.0m to 177.0m, 178.0m to 179.0m, 180.0m to 181.0m, 182.0m to 183.0m, 184.0m to 185.0m, 186.0m to 187.0m, 188.0m to 189.0m, 190.0m to 191.0m, 192.0m to 193.0m, 194.0m to 195.0m, 196.0m to 197.0m, 198.0m to 199.0m, 200.0m to 201.0m, 202.0m to 203.0m, 204.0m to 205.0m, 206.0m to 207.0m, 208.0m to 209.0m, 210.0m to 211.0m, 212.0m to 213.0m, 214.0m to 215.0m, 216.0m to 217.0m, 218.0m to 219.0m, 220.0m to 221.0m, 222.0m to 223.0m, 224.0m to 225.0m, 226.0m to 227.0m, 228.0m to 229.0m, 230.0m to 231.0m, 232.0m to 233.0m, 234.0m to 235.0m, 236.0m to 237.0m, 238.0m to 239.0m, 240.0m to 241.0m, 242.0m to 243.0m, 244.0m to 245.0m, 246.0m to 247.0m, 248.0m to 249.0m, 250.0m to 251.0m, 252.0m to 253.0m, 254.0m to 255.0m, 256.0m to 257.0m, 258.0m to 259.0m, 260.0m to 261.0m, 262.0m to 263.0m, 264.0m to 265.0m, 266.0m to 267.0m, 268.0m to 269.0m, 270.0m to 271.0m, 272.0m to 273.0m, 274.0m to 275.0m, 276.0m to 277.0m, 278.0m to 279.0m, 280.0m to 281.0m, 282.0m to 283.0m, 284.0m to 285.0m, 286.0m to 287.0m, 288.0m to 289.0m, 290.0m to 291.0m, 292.0m to 293.0m, 294.0m to 295.0m, 296.0m to 297.0m, 298.0m to 299.0m, 300.0m to 301.0m, 302.0m to 303.0m, 304.0m to 305.0m, 306.0m to 307.0m, 308.0m to 309.0m, 310.0m to 311.0m, 312.0m to 313.0m, 314.0m to 315.0m, 316.0m to 317.0m, 318.0m to 319.0m, 320.0m to 321.0m, 322.0m to 323.0m, 324.0m to 325.0m, 326.0m to 327.0m, 328.0m to 329.0m, 330.0m to 331.0m, 332.0m to 333.0m, 334.0m to 335.0m, 336.0m to 337.0m, 338.0m to 339.0m, 340.0m to 341.0m, 342.0m to 343.0m, 344.0m to 345.0m, 346.0m to 347.0m, 348.0m to 349.0m, 350.0m to 351.0m, 352.0m to 353.0m, 354.0m to 355.0m, 356.0m to 357.0m, 358.0m to 359.0m, 360.0m to 361.0m, 362.0m to 363.0m, 364.0m to 365.0m, 366.0m to 367.0m, 368.0m